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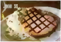

FOOD 33

Best of the East Bay
Remixed
2011

Farmers' Markets: Who Benefits?

Oakland offers rent-free space for everything from crepes to clothing, and local businesses are asking what the city gets in return *By Madeleine Baar*

oting Starts
his Week!
categories
n pages 17-18

NEWS 13

CUTS TO ADULT ED

Oakland programs have been decimated, and more cuts may be on the way

MUSIC 42

THE BAROQUE FOLK

How Foxtails Brigade turned chamber music into a pop form By [illegible]

Laura Weinbach's first brush with fame happened at sixth grade graduation, where she performed the song "Hero" by Mariah Carey. It was a phenomenal experience, says the high-voiced brunette, who is now known for guitar-and-string compositions that most closely resemble song cycles of the Victorian era. In fact, she still has video documentation of her first public attempt at R&B. "I just reached into my inner soul — you know, that *Mariah Carey* lurking within," Weinbach said, a little snidely. She chewed on the thought for a moment. "It was kind of an *American Idol* experience." *Story inside*

CULTURE SPY 20

ON ASIAN PARENTS

Graphic novelists spin YA tale about filial duty, pixelated daydreams

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On the Cover *Old Oakland Farmers Market. Photograph by Michael Short.*

EAST BAY EXPRESS

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NEWS & OPINION

EAST BAY EXPRESS
The Man Behind Richmond's Renaissance

LETTERS

[illegible]

We Haven't Left

Thanks for such a great article.

There are a number of us who grew up in the Richmond area and refused to leave a city with such potential and good people working for the common good. It hasn't been easy but there is a sense of accomplishment.

I would have liked to see the *West County Times* make mention of your article since there are a number of old-timers who don't have computer access or aren't aware of the *East Bay Express*.

Margaret Baker, Richmond

Refreshing Look

I wanted to offer a brief note of praise for John Geluardi's excellent exploration of Richmond, its transition, and its future.

As Mr. Geluardi notes near the article's conclusion, media coverage of Richmond at times continues to feature the old clichés that were built over recent decades. This article was refreshingly forward looking, and was well served by noting the sometimes unfairly negative light in which Richmond is often cast.

Here at UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism, we run RichmondConfidential.org, a grant-funded local news site that attempts to cover Richmond in a more in-depth and nuanced way, focusing particularly on news about the city's successes. Along with partners like RichmondPulse.org, which is a New America Media site that focuses on local youth as journalists and storytellers in their own community, we think that Richmond's reputation is improving in proportion to the real improvements on the ground.

Robert Rogers, Berkeley

Accelerating Changes

I want to thank you for such a positive and uplifting article on Richmond and the people who are effectively making changes for the better in Richmond. The article made my day after so much negative press! I have lived in Richmond for more than fifteen years and have seen the changes and can tell you the changes are accelerating and have been ever since Bill Lindsay, Jim Goins, and Chris Magnus joined us.

Cynthia E. Hodes, Richmond

Other Credits

As a Richmond resident who volunteers to uplift our community, I thank John Geluardi for his article on what the headline writer optimistically called the "Richmond Renaissance." His article accurately chronicles Richmond's new positive direction, and at the same time will help boost that trajectory. We are cleaning the grime off our motto: City of Pride and Purpose.

City Manager Bill Lindsay has earned the compliments, but since we're handing out credit, I think it fair to mention the Richmond Progressive Alliance. Over the last ten years, these community activists have diligently advanced a number of crucial issues like passing Measure T and challenging Chevron's utility users tax perk.

It was the mayor and city council candidates that the RPA ran and endorsed — candidates who opposed the inappropriate "destination casino" project and who were then supported by hundreds of ordinary citizens like myself going house to house — that overcame the unprecedented $1 million Chevron lavished on their three "Chevron friendly" candidates.

If they, the old power brokers of the derrière-guard, had won instead, Geluardi's article would have had a distinct funereal tone.

Yes, Richmond is coming out of its long thrall and joining the East Bay, but we still live with those who would be our masters.

We still have the Chevron Corporation, which is suing for a $60 million refund on its property taxes that will savage county and city public services even though its profits, each year topping the last, surely have increased its property's value.

We still have the Chamber of Commerce and the Council of Industries, who like their national counterparts, choose pressure and contributions so that the profits of big business always take precedence over the needs of us ordinary people.

Thanks for the article and thanks for the Richmond Progressive Alliance.

Michael Beer, Richmond

He Did Some Good Things

I must take issue with the characterization of Isiah Turner as a "mediocre director of Employment and Training." I served as chair of the Private Industry Council while Isiah was director of Employment and Training in the city and I can attest that his political connections at the state and federal levels generated lots of extra money for the city, and his political skills locally created Richmond WORKS and caused many employers to sign contracts promising to give Richmond WORKS first opportunity to place new employees. He also created the mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program. I don't know whether he was a good administrator of the Employment and Training Program, and the negative characterizations of him in the article as city manager are fair, but give him some credit for the good things he did.

Joshua G. Genser, Richmond

High Hopes

The article states that we are financially stable compared with where we used to be, but that we are facing a $5 million deficit next year, and that the sales tax increase is "vital to the city's continued financial health." But however we feel about the tax increase (I don't necessarily support it — I'm just pointing out why our city manager says we need it), in the 27 years I've lived in Richmond, I've seen a lot of changes. The past six years, in my opinion, is the longest period of positive change I've seen. I have high hopes for the continuing increase in our quality of life, and we didn't have to sell out to anyone to get it.

Ellen Seskin, Richmond

A Win for Everyone

It is rewarding to read of this progress, and though I do not live there, Richmond is a part of our entire community in the Bay Area. As it improves, so do we all — and our support for the good leadership there should be heard. As with me, this article also might convince many reading it to go see the progress for ourselves, enjoying the places mentioned. In view of the fact-based indicators of a city on the rise, here's a salute to Richmond's citizens, its city government — and City Manager Lindsay in particular.

William H. Thompson, Walnut Creek

[illegible] 5/18

Save Me From Dullness

Oh God. What would the atheists do without the fundies to make fun of? Not only are both sides equally righteous, they're both out of touch. Recent public opinion polls indicate that anywhere from 40 to 70 percent of Americans now consider themselves "spiritual but not religious." What does that mean? It means that a growing and substantial population of intelligent folks is throwing off the dogma and superstitions of organized religion, but are not about to trade in their innate spirituality for the soulless ethos of the "Life is hard and then you die" crowd. The spiritual but not religious are Zen meditators, Sufi whirlers, students of A Course in Miracles, and other investigators of the inner life who accept that the superdaddy "God" of mainstream religions has, like Elvis, left the building, but are seriously engaged in plumb-

Letters Policy

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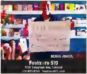
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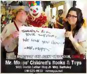
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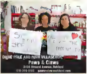
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ing the mysteries of existence for themselves. As the poet e.e. cummings so aptly put it: "but yet the godless are the dull and the dull are the damned." I'm not worried about being on the wrong side of the Rapture, but God save me from dullness.

D. Patrick Miller, Berkeley

Bin Laden

Which bin Laden?

The government has trotted out numerous bin Ladens over his career — if you don't believe me, search for the government-released videos of bin Laden since 9/11 — you'll see the gaunt bin Laden, the fat one, the happy one, etc. — some clearly not even the same person. Which bin Laden was killed? I think he's being used as convenient fodder to get the masses to cede even more of their rights to the government. As H.L. Mencken stated: "The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed — and hence clamorous to be led to safety — by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary." Wake up! Your government is much more of a threat to you than bin Laden ever was.

Jim Mellander, El Sobrante

5/11

Friendly Folks

I love Green Papaya! The last time I was there my boyfriend and I ended up hanging out with the family who owns the place, who were doing some dining/drinking of their own at the adjacent table. They were kind enough to offer us some Heinekens and chat about the restaurant. Great food and great times all around: a true hospitality abounds here. Glad y'all have gotten wind of it!

Isaac Miller, Oakland

Theatre Review 5/11

Poor Writing

Saw the play May 15th. It was not bad, but I do agree with the reviewer that something was lacking. In my view though it was the writing that fell short, not the acting. I've seen Ruhl's *Eurydice* in a junior college production. I think that's a better play.

Lee Zuckerman, Napa

Always Sneaking?

Rachel Swan seems a little too preoccupied with finding ways to sneak out of shows. I noticed in her review of Impact Theatre's *Disassembly* she complains that there are no scene changes or blackouts. She states: "no one had the option of sneaking out."

Jonathan Gordon
Board member, Actors Ensemble
Vallejo

Become a Culinary Tourist

Hey, you have just explained a culinary tourist and how experiential experiences are so important in the obtaining and retaining of tourists but news: Culinary tourism is not, as so many people think, just about high-end experiences but about all that is culinary: stores, farmers' markets, beer/wine/culinary schools, plus so much more. May I suggest you become a free basic member of the International Culinary Tourism Association (ICTA), where you can find lots of useful info, take a Professional Culinary Tourism qualification, or open a chapter with the ICTA. Simply go to CulinaryTourism.org for more information.

Gerry Taylor, Tauranga, New Zealand

Berkeley High News, 5/4

Social Triage

Every leader must desire to be considered merciful and not cruel. He must, however, take care not to misuse mercifulness: to always be lenient may seem like wisdom, but is in fact specious. Therefore a leader must not mind being accused of cruelty for purposes of keeping public order: he will ultimately be more merciful than those who, from an excess of tenderness, allow disorders to arise from whence spring bloodshed and rapine. For these as a rule injure the whole community, while the severe punishment of a few hurt only individuals."

Again: "And it will always happen that in cases where prompt resolution is required, there will be indecision when weak men have to deliberate and resolve."

The above (somewhat paraphrased) quotes taken from Niccolò Machiavelli show that he understood what one modern novelist has referred to as the "cold equation."

What is the cold equation? It is the equation that says to cut off the gangrened finger to save the hand. That students can turn school zones into war zones with impunity shows that discipline is in the toilet. Berkeley school officials and teachers, being (in the main) "peacenik" leftists, have never been trained, nor trained themselves, to make hard (and if necessary, harsh) decisions: that is the reason these schools are falling into entropy. What needs to be done is social triage: send the "reformable" troublemakers to special "continuation" schools; expel the incorrigibles as an acceptable loss. One might even say an inevitable loss. If this sounds harsh, here is another quote from my own junior high school counselor: "In real life, there will always be casualties; just save the best, say 'good luck' to the rest."

James Fenton, Oakland

Eco Watch 5/4

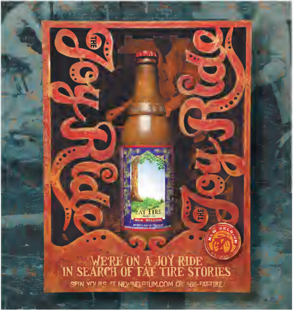
Support True Organic

I will stop buying Petaluma Farms/Judy's Family/Rock Island/Organic Valley eggs from now on. I've been buying them all this time without having checked them out, which is hard for a regular joe to do. Props to the *Express*, the Alexandres, and all the farmers market egg sellers out there! True free range eggs are indeed healthier and yummier. Seeing the chickens roaming on my friend's ranch and tasting the eggs confirmed it. Just say no to industrial pretend-organic.

Ken Ott, Oakland

Corrections

In our May 25 music story "Moving to Grand Lodge," we misspelled the name of "Mizzupl" Mike.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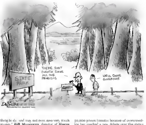
STATE PARK CLOSURE PLAN IS ILLEGAL

Jerry Brown's plan to close seventy state parks in California violates state and federal laws.

By Robert Gammon



From the start, **Jerry Brown's** decision to close seventy state parks next year because of California's budget crisis seemed odd. Not only had no governor ever closed a state park in California before, but it became immediately clear that Brown's May 13 announcement wasn't going to have much impact on the state's $9.6 billion deficit. The Democratic governor, who often portrays himself as being environmentally friendly, acknowledged that closing state parks will only save about $11 million next year. In other words, the governor decided to create an instant controversy over a proposal that only addresses 0.1 percent of California's financial problem.

Thanks to excellent reporting by **Paul Rogers** of the *San Jose Mercury News*, we've also learned that Brown's plan has many more flaws than its relatively minor effect on the budget — namely, that portions of it appear to be illegal. Late last week, Rogers broke the news that **the National Park Service** has concluded that Brown can't close sixteen of the seventy state parks on his list because they received federal funding. "The funding is a grant to the state, like a contract," **Jon Jarvis**, director of the National Park Service in Washington, DC, told Rogers. "It says the state makes a commitment to provide these places for public use in perpetuity. To not do that is essentially a breach of that contract."

The contract that California agreed to when it received the federal funds — $287.3 million since 1965 — does not mean that the state will have to return the money if it closes the parks. But it would force the state to open new parks of equal value nearby to the closed ones. Brown's decision also could mean that California will be ineligible for future federal grants, which would be a huge blow to the state park system. In short, Brown's proposal to close parks may end up costing the state as much or more than it would save — which was paltry to begin with.

Among the sixteen state parks slated for closure that received federal money are: **Benicia State Recreation Area**, **Portola Redwoods State Park** in San Mateo County, **Castle Rock State Park** in Santa Clara County, and **Twin Lakes State Beach** in Santa Cruz.

Rogers, meanwhile, previously reported that the **California Coastal Commission** has concluded that Brown's plan to close eleven state beaches would violate the state constitution. Why? Because the constitution makes it unlawful for the state to ban members of the public from walking on wet sand up to the "mean high-tide line" on any beach. In short, the beaches belong to the public, and so cannot be closed. "It is becoming more and more clear that closing down state parks is not a simple thing to do, and may not even save very much money," **Bill Magavern**, director of **Sierra Club California**, told Rogers.

Among the eleven state beaches that Brown plans to close are **Twin Lakes State Beach** in Santa Cruz, **Gray Whale Cove** in San Mateo County, and **Garrapata State Park** in Big Sur. Rogers also has reported that closing state parks likely will create logistical nightmares for the state because many people will use the closed parks and beaches anyway, thereby forcing state park rangers to patrol the parks to keep them safe.

Closing state parks also is wildly unpopular, especially in a down economy when families are searching for inexpensive ways to recreate. Two years ago, then-Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger** killed his plan to close 220 state parks after receiving 135,000 angry letters and e-mails from the public — the most he ever received on one issue.

So why is Brown pushing forward with his park-closure plan when it creates so many problems and probably won't save the state much money, if any at all? The governor so far won't say. Sounds like it's time for some more letters and e-mails.

What Climate Change?

California regulators acted last week as if climate change doesn't exist, approving a plan to give **PG&E**'s heaviest energy users a 17 percent rate cut, while slightly raising rates for people who have been conserving energy. Yet as ridiculous as the new rules are, they could have been even more absurd. The **California Public Utilities Commission** had considered a proposal by PG&E to dramatically slash rates for heavy energy users, but ultimately rejected it. Even so, the new rules will provide an incentive for energy wasters to waste even more, thereby likely adding to greenhouse gas emissions in California.

Where to Put the Prisoners?

The decision by the **US Supreme Court** last week to order California to release more than 30,000 prison inmates because of overcrowding has sparked a new debate over the state's fiscal crisis. Governor Brown wants to transfer tens of thousands of nonviolent inmates from state prisons to county jails, but needs money to do it. The governor argues that the high court ruling makes his tax measure proposals all the more vital. And East Bay county jailers told the *Contra Costa Times* that they cannot absorb new prisoners without more funds.

Three-Dot Roundup

The state **Assembly** overwhelmingly approved a ban on the sale of shark fins in California. Environmental studies show that such bans are the only way to slow the international slaughter of sharks for their highly prized fins. ... Ex-BART cop **Johannes Mehserle** is scheduled to be released from prison in a few weeks after serving an eleven-month sentence for the fatal shooting of train rider **Oscar Grant**, the *Oakland Tribune* reported. ... UC Berkeley law school professor **Goodwin Liu** withdrew his nomination for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals after US Senate Republicans refused to allow a vote on it because of his liberal views. ... A bill by Berkeley Assemblywoman **Nancy Skinner** that would force **Amazon.com** to collect sales tax from its customers in California is now being backed by major retail chains, including **Walmart** and **Target**. ... **Oaks Card Club** in Emeryville has agreed to pay a $275,000 fine to the state and clean up its act after a raid by state and federal authorities uncovered evidence of drug dealing and loan sharking. ... **AC Transit** has tabled plans for another cut in service later this year because the agency's finances are in better shape than anticipated. ... And **Chevron** has downsized its proposal to expand its Richmond refinery and has submitted revised plans to the Richmond City Council after its previous proposal was blocked in the courts by environmental groups. ●

Seven Days is culled from our news blog, 92510.

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RESCUE

LEGALIZATION NATION

BOPPING TO INVISIBL SKRATCH PIKLZ REUNION SHOW

Plus: Capitol Hill buzzes with bills, while Arizona foes dig in their heels

By David Downs

The Bay Area's cannabis culterati is celebrating a new high Friday, June 3 in San Francisco when **DJ Qbert** and **D-Styles**, turntablists from the legendary **Invisibl Skratch Piklz**, perform together for the first time in ten years.

Sometimes compared to Jimi Hendrix and John Coltrane, turntable master D-Styles toured the globe with the Skratch Piklz and **Beat Junkies**. Now, D-Styles is back, riding atop another top-notch night of experimental hip-hop and electronic music under the moniker "Low End Theory SF," the Northern California spin-off of the famed monthly hip-hop party in Los Angeles. He'll do a solo set and spin with Qbert, the Daly City native, global turntable champion, and former crew member of **Mix Master Mike**, a longtime associate of the **Beastie Boys**.

Founded in 2006 by **Alpha Pup** records' **Daddy Kev**, Low End Theory has become one of the most influential and hyped avenues for "beat music" thanks to residents Kev, **The Gaslamp Killer**, **DJ Nobody**, and **MC Nocando**'s love of deep bass and experimental electronic music.

With a monthly podcast on iTunes downloaded 2.2 million times, Low End Theory helped launch cutting-edge producers **The Glitch Mob**, **Daedelus**, **Nosaj Thing**, and LA's **Flying Lotus**, who's easily the most forthright about his cannabis intake.

A darling of the dubstep scene, with roots steeped in the special "up" beat of reggae, Lotus has said his favorite method for testing the quality of a newly crafted track was to smoke a bong load and drive the freeways of LA listening to it at top volume. The road test appears to have served Lotus well, as his 2010 album *Cosmogramma* attracted global headlines for its trippy, dubby, psychedelic feel, and special guest vocal appearance by **Thom Yorke** of **Radiohead**.

A veritable Low End Theory bromance has since developed, with Yorke regularly making national news with surprise DJ sets at Low End shows in LA this spring. In February, Daddy Kev expanded Low End Theory to San Francisco, hitting on the first Friday of every month.

Now on night number five at 103 Harriet, Low End Theory SF backs up Qbert and D-Styles this week with **DNTEL** of **The Postal Service**, **Mono/Poly** off of Lotus' Brainfeeder label, and **Dnaebeats** featuring **Gift of Gab**, who is the producer from **Blackalicious**. Low End Theory residents Daddy Kev, Nobody, Gaslamp Killer, and Nocando open up the night. 10 p.m.-4 a.m., $15 tickets at the door.

Hill Buzzes with Weed Bills

Last week, three congressmen introduced three long-anticipated pieces of federal legislation to fix problems with medical marijuana law. Congressman **Barney Frank**, a Democrat from Massachusetts, submitted a bill to reclassify pot down from its current status as a dangerous drug with no medical value. Legalization Nation reported last week that the Drug Enforcement Administration is preparing to ease restrictions on growing pot, as long as the growers are pharmaceutical companies who put the active ingredient of pot in a pill form.

Next up, Congressman **Jared Polis** from Colorado introduced a bill that would allow banks to provide services to medical marijuana businesses without being subject to "suspicious activity" reporting requirements. No national banks currently accept business from dispensaries. Bankers in Oakland have said that federal regulators are threatening to audit any bank that takes medical marijuana business.

Lastly, Congressman **Pete Stark**, an East Bay Democrat, introduced the third bill, which would change the tax code to allow lawful medical marijuana dispensaries to take business deductions. Under a 1980s drug law, "drug trafficking" organizations can't take business deductions such as cost of goods sold and of doing payroll when paying their taxes. The law came about after an outraged Congress discovered that a methamphetamine and cocaine dealer in the Midwest had successfully deducted a portion of his rent and his gas bill from his drug dealing business. Today, the Internal Revenue Service is using the law in audits against Oakland's **Harborside Health Center** and at least a dozen other major clubs. Without business deductions, operators say the entire medical marijuana industry would be closed.

Gov Brewer Brews Up Trouble

Medical marijuana narrowly became the law of the land in Arizona last November, but that doesn't mean the losers are going to sit idly by while their state turns toward pot. Arizona Governor **Jan Brewer** is moving to scuttle the state's nascent dispensary program under the guise of protecting state employee safety. Last week, Brewer's office announced it would sue the federal government to clarify if the state's medical pot program conflicts with federal drug statutes. Brewer also halted the state's permitting process for about one hundred dispensaries, though she did not stop the state from issuing medical marijuana patient ID cards.

Governor Brewer and Arizona Attorney General **Tom Horne** opposed the initiative last year. In May, Horne asked for written "guidance" from US Attorney **Dennis Burke**, part of a pattern of medical pot opponents seeking letters from US attorneys. Burke reiterated that federal law considers cannabis a Schedule I drug under the **Controlled Substances Act**, and the feds have a wide variety of civil and criminal penalties for those violating the act.

Now Governor Brewer is using Burke's letter as evidence that public workers may be prosecuted for implementing the state's medical pot program, though activists note that no state employee has ever been arrested for doing so by federal authorities. Arizona patients, meanwhile, have begun to legally grow their own. ●

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This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

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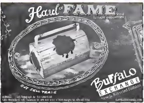

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ECO WATCH

SLASHING THE SOLAR POWER PAPERWORK

The East Bay Green Corridor is attempting to remove a troublesome barrier to widespread solar adoption — bureaucratic red tape

By Nate Seltenrich

When people talk about rooftop solar power, they talk about efficiency: energy efficiency in general, solar-panel efficiency in specific, and the cost efficiency of spending thousands up front for a promised payback years down the line. Hardware costs have plummeted while photovoltaic quality has improved markedly in recent years, increasing efficiency on multiple fronts. Yet one aspect of rooftop solar installation has lagged far behind: paperwork and permitting processes, which not only vary wildly from one city to the next, but have only grown in complexity and cost.

Believing these glaring inefficiencies have stifled the local solar industry, the **East Bay Green Corridor** has made it its mission to stamp them out. "We feel that streamlining the solar permitting process will lead to greater penetration," said **Carla Din**, director of the East Bay Green Corridor. And she doesn't take that lightly. In September 2010, a vote by the corridor's twelve principals identified establishing a regional solar-energy permitting process as its top policy priority.

The goal is to promote economic development by making it easier on solar contractors and homeowners who are currently forced to navigate a veritable maze of regulations pertaining to documents and diagrams, permit fees and processes, turnaround times, and much more. "If you imagine dealing with different requirements in every city," Din said, "it's just mind-boggling."

Shortly after the East Bay Green Corridor decided to attack the byzantine process, a chance meeting between Din and **Erin Alderman**, founder and CEO of San Leandro-based software company **SolarNexus**, further greased the wheels of progress. Seeing an opportunity to remove some big boulders from the residential solar-energy stream, Alderman set out independently in 2009 to develop software and online solutions for the nation's solar industry geared in part toward reducing so-called soft costs derived from paperwork and administrative overhead.

"If we're gonna really reduce the cost low enough that solar can be widely adopted and really have an impact on energy use in this country," Alderman said, "then we're going to have to work on these soft costs in addition to the hardware costs."

And soft costs are significant. Among East Bay cities, permit fees alone range from as little as zero to as high as $900, while time and money spent by solar installers shuttling paperwork back and forth, meeting with city staff, and waiting on-site for multiple inspectors adds many hundreds more. These costs — and, ultimately, the frustration of accruing them over multiple days and even weeks — are often passed on to the consumer.

Danny Kennedy, cofounder and president of Oakland-based residential solar contractor **Sungevity**, says that back-office labor costs related to handling permits and paperwork are now equivalent to those associated with the actual installation. "It's the variability and uncertainty," he said.

One particularly frustrating example is the distance panels are allowed to be placed from the roof's ridgeline, he said, which differs almost arbitrarily from city to city. "Not only do they have different rules, but they often change the rules or make stuff up on the fly," he explained. "It's a common case of red tape getting in the way of innovating and entrepreneurship." Kennedy and Alderman have joined in supporting the East Bay Green Corridor's efforts to standardize permitting processes, providing expertise in their respective areas. The three organizations have also come together — along with **PG&E** and **Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory** — as a regional team competing in the 2011 **California Great Solar Challenge**, a contest launched last month by Silicon Valley agency **SolarTech** that calls for cities and other jurisdictions to reduce soft costs and administrative inefficiencies. Statewide, such efforts could reduce process-related costs by as much as 60 percent, Din said.

The federal government is getting in on the act, too: President **Barack Obama's SunShot Initiative**, managed by the Department of Energy, differs from previous solar development efforts by taking aim at installation and permitting costs — and handing out grants to innovators in that arena. Din said the East Bay Green Corridor is actively seeking grants to support its permitting process project, but has not received any to date. That's okay, because the effort is still in its earliest stages. Din and her team are currently in the midst of gathering detailed information on member cities' various practices.

Simultaneously, SolarNexus is developing an online database of forms, policies, procedures, and diagrams. By fall the Green Corridor should have prepared its standardized guidelines, and by the end of the year they should be instituted throughout the East Bay. After that, Green Corridor administration will continue to provide support while gathering metrics on cost and time savings. SolarNexus, meanwhile, hopes to expand its localized database to a national scale.

The East Bay Green Corridor was established in 2007 to foster regional collaboration in green technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Its members include the cities of Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, Emeryville, Oakland, Richmond, and San Leandro, plus UC Berkeley, the Lawrence Berkeley lab, California State University East Bay, and the Peralta Community College District.

"We hear from more solar companies than any others that are interested in siting here," Din said. "We think that there's a great potential to positively impact this industry." ●

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FULL DISCLOSURE

PERATA PAYS DE LA FUENTE $12,500

The Oakland councilman, a frequent critic of public-employee unions, said the ex-state senator hired him to gather union support for a statewide ballot measure.

By Robert Gammon

Oakland City Councilman **Ignacio De La Fuente** is one of the Bay Area's most outspoken critics of public employee compensation packages. He has argued repeatedly in recent years that their pay and retirement costs are bankrupting government, particularly Oakland's. His hard-line stance has been somewhat surprising because he's a longtime union representative. And his criticisms of unions have damaged his once sterling reputation within organized labor. Nonetheless, ex-state Senator **Don Perata** has decided to hire De La Fuente to be a well-paid liaison with labor unions in the state and has paid him at least $12,500 this year to gain union support for his tobacco tax ballot measure.

Campaign finance records show that Perata's **Hope 2010 Cure Cancer** committee cut checks to De La Fuente for $5,000, $3,000, and $2,500 between January 1 and March 31 and reported last month that it planned to pay him at least $2,000 more. In an interview, De La Fuente acknowledged that his criticisms of public employee pay and pensions has hurt his standing among labor leaders in the state, but he said it's only with public employee unions and not with those that represent workers in the private sector.

De La Fuente

Perata

He said Perata, his longtime close friend and political ally, is paying him to write letters and meet with union leaders throughout California to gather support for the tobacco tax measure. "We're attempting to convince them to get on board," De La Fuente said of union leaders.

This is not the first time that Perata has hired De La Fuente to work for his cancer committee. In the fall of 2009, the committee paid the councilman $25,000. De La Fuente said that money also was for work in obtaining union support for the effort. De La Fuente also was one of Perata's staunchest backers during his run for mayor of Oakland last year and as a council member he helped aid Perata's unsuccessful attempt to block the use of ranked-choice voting. The voting system was widely regarded as a major factor in Perata's loss to Councilwoman **Jean Quan**. De La Fuente also tried to raise the spending caps in the mayor's race, a move that likely would have greatly benefitted Perata because of his prodigious fund-raising abilities.

Last year, Perata's cancer committee also came under scrutiny after questions were raised as to whether the ex-senator was using its funds to help his campaign for mayor of Oakland, in violation of city and state laws. Perata denied any wrongdoing.

The tobacco tax ballot measure has qualified for the February 2012 ballot, and if it passes, it will add a $1 tax to each pack of cigarettes sold in the state. The proceeds will fund cancer research. Perata, a cancer survivor, is a co-spokesman for the ballot measure with cycling great **Lance Armstrong**, who has come under heavy fire recently for allegedly using performance-enhancing drugs while winning seven Tour de France titles. Armstrong has maintained his innocence.

Perata's committee, it should be noted, is not the primary campaign committee established to support the ballot measure. The main committee, **Californians for a Cure**, is sponsored by the **American Cancer Society**, the **American Lung Association**, and the **American Heart Association**. Perata's committee is working as a complement to the main one. Through March 31, Perata's committee reported raising $58,107 this year and spent $54,906, primarily on consultants, including De La Fuente. Other well-paid consultants for the committee include **Rhys Williams** and **Chris Lehman**, who also both worked for Perata's mayoral campaign.

It's somewhat unusual for a sitting city councilman to be hired as a paid political consultant for a statewide campaign, or even a local one. No other elected city official in Oakland does that kind of side work. Perata, however, has a long history of hiring friends and family members as political consultants for his various committees. Those practices, in fact, were part of the FBI's five-year probe of his financial dealings.

De La Fuente's moonlighting also comes at a time when he has been a sharp critic of Mayor Quan, who defeated Perata in last year's election. De La Fuente has repeatedly harangued the mayor in recent weeks, calling some of her actions and proposals "illegal" and charging that she should be doing more to solve the city's budget crisis.

However, De La Fuente's consulting job with Perata, along with his duties as vice president of the **Glass Molders Pottery, Plastics and Allied Workers International Union**, also raises questions about how much time he's been able to devote to helping close the city's $58 million budget gap. De La Fuente told Full Disclosure that his two other jobs have not interfered with his council responsibilities, and argued that he's working as hard as anyone on the budget mess. Last year, the glass molders union paid him a salary of $107,198, records show. About his work for Perata's committee, he said: "I don't spend a lot of time on it."

It's a good gig if you can get it — $12,500 for not a lot of work. ●

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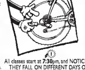

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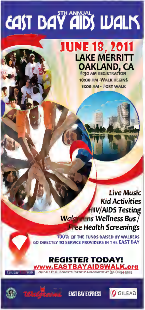

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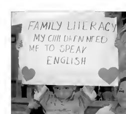

Students and parents protested proposed cuts to adult education in Oakland last week.

Scott Morris

ADULT EDUCATION DISMANTLED

Just two years ago, Oakland schools taught English and basic literacy skills to more than 25,000 adults annually. Next year, it might not help any.

By Scott Morris

Oakland is the seventh largest recipient of adult education funding in California, but its once plentiful state of programs has been almost entirely decimated. Millions of dollars that were once earmarked for adult education have been redirected to fund K-12 programs, a move that was prohibited by law until two years ago when the state legislature allowed districts to use adult education funds to ease the burden of a nearly 20 percent cut in overall spending. The move devastated adult education throughout California, but particularly in Oakland, a school district that has faced financial hardships for decades and before 2009 had one of the state's most robust adult ed programs.

Adult education traditionally has been designed to help recent immigrants, refugees, high school dropouts, ex-convicts, and elderly or disabled individuals. Its programs have been geared toward ensuring that those who lacked the education necessary to succeed in the work force could learn how to read and write, how to speak English, or even earn a high school diploma. Offering support structure for adults had been considered important in California, where 123,651 high school students dropped out in 2006-07, according to a 2009 study by UC Santa Barbara, and 23 percent of adults lack basic literacy skills, according to a 2003 study by the National Center for Education Statistics.

But then adult education began to steeply decline following the 2009 rule changes. Prior to that, adult education funding was based on enrollment, and districts with the most students received the most funding. Some school districts offered much broader adult education programs than others — particularly major urban centers with large immigrant populations — and those districts received the lion's share of funds. The amount of money each district receives now depends mostly on what enrollment was during the 2007-08 school year, even if the district no longer provides any adult education programs at all.

Oakland's situation is not unique: many districts have slashed adult education funding since the 2009 changes. In the first year after California allowed school districts to redirect adult education funds to K-12 programs, adult education enrollment plummeted 45 percent statewide, from 1.2 million students to fewer than 800,000. Statewide Adult Education Administrator **Debra Jones** estimated that they have fallen even further since. "We believe we are at about the 50 percent mark of where we were two years ago," she said.

Indeed, the dismantling of adult education throughout California is casting serious doubt as to whether the state will be able to adequately train its workforce in the coming decades. It also raises troubling questions about the fate of hundreds of thousands of adults in the state who can't read or write or speak English.

Those issues are particularly acute in Oakland, a city with a huge immigrant population and a public school system with traditionally high drop-out rates. Moreover, maybe no school district in California has dismantled adult education as rapidly as Oakland. Its programs used to serve more than 25,000 students, but in the 2010-11 school year it served fewer than 5,400, and likely will enroll even fewer in the upcoming school year — possibly none at all. "I think Oakland is the largest program with the largest hit in California, percentage-wise," Jones said.

Oakland Unified School District has already redirected nearly $10 million away from its adult education budget and has proposed cutting the remaining funds by an additional $3 million for the upcoming school year, leaving just $1 million. If the cuts go through as expected, Oakland will have slashed its adult education program by more than 90 percent in just two years.

Grappling with statewide education cuts and payments on a $100 million debt owed to the state since 2003, Oakland's Board of Education has been forced to make uncomfortable decisions. "These are Faustian choices we're grappling with here," noted board Vice President Jody London at a May 11 Board meeting. She said she was interested in figuring out whether the district could pare back the program dramatically while still leaving some structure intact to resurrect it later.

At the same time, the destruction of adult education in Oakland represents a major change for the city. Oakland was home to California's first dedicated adult school in 1865, and has offered English classes for immigrant adults since the 1880s. But in the 2011-2012 school year, Oakland will likely have no functioning adult school, offer no English as a Second Language classes or vocational or career training programs for the elderly and disabled, and few if any GED classes.

The most drastic cuts to adult education came last year when several schools long tasked with serving Oakland's adult community closed, including two popular decades-old campuses, **Neighborhood Center Adult School** and **Edward Shands Adult School**. "Every time we go back to Shands to get something, people come out to the parking lot and ask when we're opening back up," said **Patricia Jensen**, a former teacher at Edward Shands. Jensen had been teaching science and English as a Second Language at Shands since 1973 but will take an early retirement at the end of this school year.

The possibility of Shands reopening in the future appears to be distant at best. At the May 11 meeting, Deputy Superintendent **Maria Santos** outlined a detailed proposal to cut adult education by the aforementioned $3 million to fund new high school literacy programs and expand advanced placement classes for high school students.

While a final decision on the cuts is still pending, Oakland's adult education staff is braced for more layoffs and the elimination of the few remaining English as a Second Language classes, along with the closure of the **Bond Street Annex** school, one of the last sites dedicated to adult education. For the remaining $1 million in the adult ed budget, the board is considering several options, including eliminating GED programs entirely in favor of the highly successful Family Literacy program, and even killing adult education altogether.

The board, however, wants to save the Family Literacy program because of its effectiveness and impact on K-12 education. Unlike English as a Second Language classes, which are open to all adults, Family Literacy exclusively teaches English to immigrant parents of district students, and focuses on helping parents play a larger role in their children's education.

Sam Davis, a Family Literacy teacher, said that a pregnant woman once approached him for English classes and he was forced to tell her "not yet." "There's a big population that really needs English classes," Davis said. "That used to be seen as important, getting people ready for the work force, new job skills, refugees that get placed here as part of a refugee resettlement, but they don't have kids so they can't take part" in Family Literacy.

Davis has asked the school board to limit funding cuts to adult education and leave the program with $1.7 million for the 2011-12 school year to prevent teacher layoffs in Family Literacy. As for English as a Second Language, there likely will be no funding for it unless it comes from Sacramento. "We've given up on that," Davis acknowledged.

Two of the remaining English as a Second Language classes in Oakland are taught at the **Lao Family Community Center** by **Larry Viles** and **Jim Knobelman**. They each teach daily classes of forty to fifty immigrants and refugees from countries such as Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Bhutan. "Of course the children should be the first priority," Knobelman said, but he pointed out that while his students may not have children in the district, they may be uncles, aunts, or older sisters and brothers of district students and need to learn English to get jobs. "It's surprising the administration in the district has lost sight of that," he said.

Students and employees of the Lao Center attended a May 25 meeting of the school board to speak out on behalf of adult education. **Su Dang**, who came to California from Myanmar ten years ago, spoke passionately for the continuation of English as a Second Language classes in Oakland. Dang attended adult school in Castro Valley and now works helping fellow immigrants and refugees at the Lao Center. "Without ESL education I wouldn't be here to give back to the community," she said.

Teachers at the Bond Street Annex school, a small building with three classrooms that also offers computer classes and helps adults get their high school diplomas, are braced for the school's closure in a few weeks. **Jessie Ortiz** taught English as a Second Language at Shands until it closed last year, and is now teaching GED classes at Bond Street. Last year she voluntarily taught English at a nearby church when the district's summer schools were closed. "I couldn't stand it," Ortiz said. "I was so depressed I went to church and asked, 'Could I please just open my own ESL space?'" The class immediately filled up. "People still need ESL really badly," she said.

Other Bay Area districts are struggling to keep their adult education programs afloat as well, and demand has increased as Oakland adult students look elsewhere. "The impact of Oakland's cuts has hit Alameda pretty hard," said Alameda Adult School Principal **Thomas Orput**. Despite cuts of about 30 percent from its $1.1 million budget, Alameda adult education has continued by charging fees for classes and through revenue generated by a parcel tax. But the smaller school, where English as a Second Language comprises about a quarter of its 4,000 student enrollment, doesn't have the resources to educate everyone that tries to learn English, and turns many students away. "We have a waiting list," Orput said. "How do I deny someone a public education?"

California's budget problems are not likely to end soon, and as school districts struggle to keep up with the needs of K-12 education, adult ed will remain an enticing avenue for extra funding. Oakland adult education administrator **Brigitte Marshall** said that ultimately the question of funding will need to be solved at the state level, and that state legislators have passed off their responsibility to the individual districts. "We have to call for a really comprehensive analysis of how to provide services" to the millions of people that adult education used to serve, Marshall said. "I don't see how this state could not provide for these kinds of services. It would be an economic disaster not to provide these services." ●

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

Farmers' markets are largely viewed as helping local communities, but at the Grand Lake market, the bulk of the vendors are not from Oakland. Michael Short

Farmers' Markets: Who Benefits?

Oakland offers rent-free space for everything from crepes to clothing, and local businesses are asking what the city gets in return

By Madeleine Barr

Spring Opara doesn't just shop at the farmers' market in her Grand Lake neighborhood. She *does* the farmers' market. Reusable shopping bag dangling from her arm and her stomach primed for a hlltu of fruit samples, the Air Force veteran marches down her hill across the street every Saturday prepared for a long, lazy morning, taking it all in.

Salmon jerky. Macaroons. Hundreds of Oaklanders, including the neighborhood friends she's bound to run into. "I partake of just about everything here," said the fifty-year-old with bouncy graying dreadlocks, as she sat perched atop a concrete slab next to the Afghan bread stand. "I love the products, I love the diversity," she gushed. There's just one thing that bothers the artist and businesswoman. "If you walk around and see where some of these folks are from, very few are Oakland residents."

She's not talking about the farmers; few people expect them to be from the city. Instead, she's talking about the dozens of vendors at the **Grand Lake Farmers' Market** who have nothing to do with farms. It's the artisans, masseuses, hot food sellers, and the like who have grown to comprise the bulk of the nearly one hundred vendors at the market. And most of them aren't from Oakland.

At least not in the *official* farmers' market, that is. "You see there's a group over there on the corner by the T-Mobile," Opara said, pointing across the street to three tables huddled under the sliver of shade offered by palm trees on a traffic island. "Those are local residents — Oakland residents."

More small vendors carve out ad hoc retail space along the outskirts of the market — under the Kwik Way sign and in the shadow of Lakeshore Avenue awnings. They half-jokingly call it the "farmers' market ghetto," or the "stepchild" of the real thing.

Opara has been there herself, in front of the T-Mobile store, using the lure of homemade cookies to slow down foot traffic and draw attention to her line of hand-cut queer greeting cards. "We got a decent reception," she said. "But I think people were still, like, 'Oh, you guys are cool, but you're not part of the market.'"

To make it into the official market, Opara first needs approval from the Marin nonprofit that operates it. If accepted, she still has to wait for a spot to open at Grand Lake, the most popular of the markets run by the **Agricultural Institute of Marin**, and would then have to pay the organization an annual fee. The result of this arduous and competitive process is that many local artists are shut out of what they see as the ideal way to cultivate their nascent businesses.

To Opara, something is wrong with this picture. "If the city isn't coordinating this," she said, "how do we get into a market in our own area?"

It's one of many questions Oakland's entrepreneurs are asking of the weekly open-air markets. Concerns about vendor policies, doubts about purported benefits to neighborhoods, and debates over city priorities are starting to cast a shadow over the markets. Despite their overwhelming popularity, and partly because of it, Oakland's farmers' markets have drawn tension, ire, and a litany of complaints from struggling small businesses that feel excluded from all the good-feel commerce.

The nascent debate stems from a decision by many farmers' markets, including the Grand Lake, to diversify beyond simply providing a place for local farmers to sell produce and vegetables directly to urban dwellers. In cities such as Berkeley, where farmers' markets have remained true to their original intent and strictly limit the number of non-farm vendors, there has been little to no controversy. But in Oakland, where the markets receive free space from the city and are now dominated by non-local vendors that crowd out Oakland businesses, compete with brick-and-mortar stores, and often fail to pay taxes, it's a different story.

In the introduction to her cookbook, *Chez Panisse Vegetables*, **Alice Waters** wrote of her difficulty procuring fresh produce when she opened her landmark restaurant in 1971. "Back when we began our search," she wrote, "our choices were limited. There were no farmer's markets in Berkeley, no produce brokers specializing in organically grown vegetables, no commercial vendors of wild mushrooms."

Forty years later, you can find farm stands on a city street just about every day of the week with crowds — and often, prices — that rival **Berkeley Bowl** on a weekend morning.

Oakland residents got their first taste of farmers' markets — a tradition revived from the World War II era by churches, hunger alliances, and the California Department of Food and Agriculture — 22 years ago. When the Old Oakland and Jack London Square markets launched, they were at the cusp of a nationwide movement to resist corporate agribusiness. Behind the local beets and green beans was the motivation to return to the soil, to the seasons, and to support struggling small farmers.

In the two decades since, the popularity of farmers' markets has skyrocketed. Across the country, their numbers climbed from fewer than 2,000 in the early-1990s to more than 6,000 last year. In Oakland, the explosion began in earnest in 2005, when neighborhood business districts brought markets to Montclair and Fruitvale, and the following year to Temescal and Grand Lake. Others have come and gone throughout the years: A produce stand in West Oakland, markets sponsored by churches in East Oakland, a community food network in the Laurel district, and more recently, markets at clinics and hospitals throughout the city.

But the largest are run by nonprofit management organizations. The Fremont-based **Urban Village Farmers' Market Asso-**

ciation operates the Old Oakland, Montclair and Temescal markets. **Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association** from Concord runs the markets at Jack London Square and Kaiser hospital. And the Grand Lake market, the largest of them all, is put on by the Agricultural Institute of Marin.

Nestled in neighborhood business districts and promoted to the city council with promises of economic vitality, they're sold as an embodiment not only of the 1990s credo of seasonal cooking, but of the au courant catchphrase "shop local." Eat produce from nearby farms, shop on foot in the neighborhood, support community commerce.

But Oakland entrepreneurs like **Raquel Contreras** have discovered that the farmers' markets aren't as welcoming to locals as they seem. Standing over a Bunsen burner at a table she set up across the street from the Grand Lake market, Contreras fed a toothpick-size morsel of her mushroom tamale to a potential customer. It was an unseasonably warm Saturday, and crowds gathered in waves to sample what she calls "morning tamales." She made them from scratch in her kitchen just up the street. But for all the sales she made that morning, she figured she would have done much better if her table had not been in the Kwik Way driveway, but in the official market on the other side of Lake Park Avenue.

"They make it so tough," she said of the market's organizers and their decision to deny her application to sell at the Grand Lake Farmers Market. "They say they have no more space there, and they already have a tamale vendor," she said, adding with frustration, "They're not even local!" referring to the Marin-based **Donna's Tamales**.

But the Agricultural Institute hasn't shut Contreras out completely. She sells food at its Novato farmers' market. She sees the markets as a first step to the launch of the brick-and-mortar shop she dreams of opening later this year. "Before I open my establishment, I want to go to my client base so when it opens up they know where to come," she said. "But if I have more of a client base in Novato, I might consider opening there."

Aparna Rao has applied three times to the Grand Lake market. She, too, left the process feeling rejected, confused and exasperated. Her business, **Little Paper Monkeys**, sells screen printed baby clothes she designs in her Grand Avenue apartment, with Oakland and Berkeley insignias that accompany the animal motifs. "When I applied, they said you're at a real disadvantage if you only want to be in Oakland," she said. "This is my neighborhood! I have two small children. It's not as easy for me to go up to Novato."

According to the Agricultural Institute of Marin's **Brad Burger**, his organization receives ten to twenty applications per week from vendors vying for a spot at their most popular markets. "There's only limited space where we can put people," he said, "so that makes it really competitive." But when space does open up, Burger said, "to the best of our ability we try to prioritize local businesses," such as one recent addition to the Grand Lake market, Oakland's **Bicycle Coffee Company**.

But a review of the non-farm vendors at the Grand Lake market reveals that only a fraction call Oakland home, with many more slots going to entrepreneurs from the North Bay and elsewhere. Of the non-farm vendors whose place of origin could be determined from the Agricultural Institute of Marin's records, 15 percent were from Oakland, 17 percent were from Berkeley or Emeryville, and most of the rest were from the North Bay.

On the corner of Washington and 9th streets in Old Oakland, where one full block and three half-blocks of farm stands and food purveyors hawk their provisions every Friday, a sandwich board reads: "Please no farmers market seating. Restaurant patrons only." The sign, posted above the logo of the Urban Village Farmers' Market Association and near **Levende East** restaurant's outdoor tables, offers a glimpse at the friction between Oakland farmers markets and brick and mortar businesses.

Likewise, walk into **Endgame**, one block north of the center of the Old Oakland farmers market. At 1 p.m., while office workers, students, and local residents crowded the market's corridor down 9th, owners **Chris Ruggnero** and **Anthony Brown** fiddled on their laptops at the counter in an empty game store. That's usual, Brown said. Ever since the market moved its truck parking from 9th to 10th Street, where Endgame is located, "our Fridays pretty much tanked," he said.

Even though the market only uses about half the block of Washington, it closes the wa

Spring Opara couldn't get into the Grand Lake market, so she set up shop across the street. Madeleine Star

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Harold Taylor of Taylor's Sausage says business takes a dive during the Old Oakland market.

ture block to traffic. And so with 10th Street reserved for vendor parking and Washington Street closed, the market effectively eliminates pedestrian traffic from Endgame's corner of Old Oakland. "They basically maroon us for five hours a day," Ruggiero explained. "We're basically a parking lot," added Brown.

What frustrates them most about the farmers' market is a sense of entitlement it gives off. "They've never really made any effort to talk to people down here," Ruggiero said. "So we don't know who to talk to. They basically have their things here every Friday, and pack it up and leave."

Brown suggested that if it were designed better if there were greater collaboration with the local business community, the market could be a positive asset. But as it is, "this area needs some help growing," he said. "And it is definitely not doing anything to encourage that."

In addition to the hassle caused by street closures and parking chaos, what draws the ire of many local businesses is the inclusion of non-farmer food vendors, many of whom compete with their own goods. "They have a hot dog guy out there in front of the sausage place, a catfish guy in front of the seafood place," noted **Harold Taylor**, third-generation proprietor of **Taylor's Sausage** at **Swan's Marketplace** on 9th and Washington. Despite the crowd that the market attracts right outside his door, Taylor says business takes a dive Friday mornings. The configuration of the market, with two rows of vendors faced inward rather than toward the neighborhood's shops, doesn't help. "They don't even see us because there are booths right in front of our store," he added.

Still, he recognizes that the market, with its Chinese produce stands and organic sorbet, attracts visitors to Old Oakland who might not otherwise get to know the neighborhood. And besides, "I enjoy the farmers' market," he said. "I get my flowers there, organic onions."

Ron Pardini, director of Urban Village, contends that his organization, which runs the Old Oakland farmers' market, goes out of its way to accommodate the needs of local businesses. He noted that the market's most popular food vendor had served quick Indian fare. "An Indian restaurant around the corner was upset about that, so we had them leave," he said. And the decision a few years ago to move vendor parking from 9th to 10th Street in front of Endgame was in response to complaints from 9th Street businesses.

You can't please everybody. And not every business is complaining. **Elena Durante-Vuiron** of **Ratto's International Market** enjoys the attention the farmers' market brings to the area. "It's like a street party. It creates a destination in the neighborhood, which is something that's lacking."

It's the same across Oakland. For every business that perceives a benefit — Ratto's in Old Oakland, or **A.G. Ferrari** in Montclair, which sees a spike in mozzarella sales when heirloom tomatoes are in season — others perceive a loss. Across the street from the entrance to the Montclair market on a Sunday morning, **Ugyen Triantopoulos** watched over a trickle of customers at her candy shop, **Le Bon Bon**. "Parking's very difficult," she said. "I definitely think the businesses around here don't get as much" during the market.

Pardini has heard these complaints before, and he has trouble making sense of them. "If we're drawing thousands of people to the area," he said, "and they say they're not benefiting from it, you can't just blame us, we've got to take action." He suggests local businesses offer a farmers market special, like the seasonal fruit cocktails of Lakeshore's **Easy Lounge** on Saturday afternoons. If shoppers flood the neighborhood, yet "they're saying they're not walking into their shop," said Pardini, "I can't do a whole lot about that."

Indeed, perceptions among many Oakland businesses that the markets hurt their sales defy conventional wisdom. "That's the whole point of bringing in a farmers market," Pardini said. Every market his organization operates in Oakland is sponsored by a neighborhood merchants association, and was endorsed by Oakland's Community and Economic Development Agency, based on the argument that it would spur economic activity.

"It's kind of obvious," said **Margot Lederer Prado**, a food specialist within the agency. "Basic congregation of people brings excitement and interest to an area." But the impact, she cautions, may not be so clear or immediate. Shoppers may buy lunch from market vendors, but return at a later date to food restaurants they noticed while in the

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Best band
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Best genre-bending book or graphic novel
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Best local author
Best local book
Best local film
Best local film festival
Best mash-up DJ
Best multi-talented artist
Best mural
Best music venue
Best musician
Best place to dance
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PEOPLE & PLACES

Best appropriated public space
Best charity
Best college professor with a side career
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Best company to work for
Best completely re-imagined neighborhood
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Best mixed-use building
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Best neighborhood
Best new cause
Best pick-up spot
Best place to do two things at once
Best place to hang out
Best place to take the kids
Best remixed religious service
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RESTAURANTS & BARS

Best [illegible]
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Best barbecue
Best bartender
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Best Korean restaurant
Best locally sourced/ organic menu
Best Mexican or Central American restaurant
Best Middle Eastern restaurant
Best mixologist
Best mobile food cart/truck
Best new bar
Best new restaurant
Best pizza
Best sandwiches
Best seafood
Best selection at a bar
Best Southern/soul food
Best sports bar
Best steaks
Best taco truck
Best take-out food
Best Thai/Burmese restaurant
Best vegetarian/vegan restaurant
Best Vietnamese/Cambodian restaurant

SPORTS & LEISURE

Best athlete (amateur)
Best athlete (pro)
Best basketball courts
Best bike ride
Best bike tour
Best boot camp
Best California casino
Best California ski resort
Best cross training athlete
Best endurance challenge
Best hybrid sport
Best martial arts studio
Best options at a gym
Best park
Best Pilates studio
Best place to play board games
Best race
Best remixed exercise
Best scavenger hunt or similar event
Best sporting goods/ outdoor store
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Category we didn't think of (and winner)

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"You'd think that they want us there," Pardini added.

Ben Feldman of Berkeley's **Ecology Center**, which operates that city's three farmers' markets and a new one in Albany, says the debate over their economic contribution to urban areas is beside the point. Or at least it should be. "That is a benefit that certainly happens," he said. "But, in my opinion, that's the wrong reason to start a farmers' market."

As the number of farmers' markets multiplied in the past quarter-century, they began attracting attention not only from foodies and advocates for the hungry but from marketers and city planners. A certain cachet developed around the heirloom tomatoes and winter squash, one that signified disposable income and sophisticated taste (see Oakland's newest restaurant, **Farmers Market Bistro**). While before, churches and food security organizations sponsored the markets, now their boosters were urban economic agencies. And while the shift may be subtle from the shopper's vantage point, the mission has diverged as well. "Our goal and our only responsibility is to bring people downtown," Pardini said.

But head to Derby Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Way in Berkeley on a Tuesday afternoon and you'll see a different mission — and a different outcome. The **Ecology Center**-run market is off the path of commercial districts and without seating areas or entertainment beyond a folk singer with a guitar. It exhibits no aspirations to be a social destination. As far as its offerings, there is little beyond farm stands, though the Ecology Center's **Bob Feldman** explains the inclusion of purveyors of foods like ice cream, bread, and sushi. "If people need to go to the grocery store after going to the farmers' market, they will often end up blowing off the market entirely," he said. "We want to offer the consumer an alternative to going to grocery stores."

Operators of the Oakland markets use the same rationale in explaining their expansion from farmers and bakers to artisans, services, and entertainment. "It kind of completes your shopping experience," said **Chris Blackburn** of the Agricultural Institute of Marin.

But by that logic, where does it end? With the newspaper vendor? The massage table? The inflatable slide? If you can get your fair-trade coffee next to the organic peach stand, a loaf of sourdough on which to spread your triple cream artisanal cheese, and a tamale to devour while the kids play on the slide, the shopping experience is, well, complete. And if the market "completes" the experience, then what reason do shoppers have to continue lingering in the neighborhood, or stop anywhere else on their way home?

"Let's call it what it is," said **Allen Michaan**, whose **Grand Lake Theater** faces the market's twenty-foot inflatable slide and the occasional political demonstration that has also found a home there. "It's a street fair."

It's hard to argue that notion. At the Grand Lake market, farmers often compose a minority of the stands. The rest serve up everything from health services to duck paté, newspaper subscriptions, and hot meals, many of which compete with offerings of stores on Grand and Lakeshore avenues.

In its desire to provide an alternative to a grocery store, the modern farmers' market has evolved into an outdoor healthy living shopping mall. By contrast, Berkeley businesses don't voice similar complaints about its markets because the Ecology Center hasn't encroached on their turf. It's clear about its simple mission: connecting farmers to consumers.

Michael Short

Aparna Rao gave up on the Grand Lake farmers' market after applying three times. Now she sells at Temescal.

When a budget cut last year eliminated the position of the coordinator of Oakland's **Artisans Marketplace**, a city-run weekly crafts fair in Frank Ogawa Plaza and Jack London Square, it closed the only opportunity for Oakland artists to sell directly to their community. Spring Opara sold handmade candles at both, but according to her, the marketplaces were poorly planned and unprofitable. "Frank Ogawa's fine," she said. "But have you ever gone there on Fridays?"

Apparently the idea of downtown Oakland as an arts and crafts mecca never took off. But it was still an opportunity for local craftspeople like Opara to reach and cultivate a customer base. And now that it's gone, farmers' markets have become one of the only steady opportunities. "If people weren't struggling, and cities weren't struggling for services for their residents," she said, "you wouldn't have had this argument from me."

But the city's cuts to cultural funding made Opara wonder about how Oakland fills its coffers, or doesn't. "I think that this is a leakage," she said. "This money that they're generating just from the vendors being here, how much of that money is going to Marin versus the City of Oakland?"

It's a fair question. The vendors pay fees — on the high end, artisans pay a $110 annual fee and a $47 weekly fee for the Grand Lake market — to the operators. What makes it back to Oakland's municipal purse? Very little, at least directly. The city essentially leases its public space rent free to the markets — no permit fees necessary — and just asks operators to clean the area afterwards, clear out on time, and accommodate local business districts when problems arise.

As for taxes, each of the operators handles them differently. Pardini's Urban Village collects them from its vendors and pays the city in aggregate. The Agricultural Institute of Marin leaves it to individual vendors to pay, and does not check that the businesses are registered within Oakland. A review of a half-dozen random vendors associated with the Marin nonprofit found that not one was registered as doing business within Oakland and paying taxes.

But the city appears to be unconcerned. That's because if a business makes less than $2,700 annually, they are exempt from taxation, so Oakland's Revenue and Tax Administrator **David McPherson** figures that if a business is only selling in Oakland on Saturdays, "is it really worth scrummaging if all we're gonna get are $30 out of them?" He says enforcement staff go out "every so often," but when it comes down to it, a farmers' market is "more a neighborhood, community thing than about the tax revenue."

Michaan, who says his Saturday matinee sales have plummeted in part because his customers cannot find parking, sees it as bad city planning. "It's really hurting the businesses that are paying rent, paying taxes," he said. "It's just a punch in the face to those businesses."

If the idea behind a farmers' market is to revitalize a commercial district, Michaan has his own suggestion. "It should be moved down to City Hall Plaza, because there's nothing going on down there on Saturdays. It would be a nice boost for downtown."

But in Oakland, there seems to be an agreement as to the idea behind the city's farmers' markets. Are they about economic vitality but not about tax revenue? Fruits and vegetables but also arts and crafts? According to Councilwoman **Pat Kernighan**, whose district includes Grand Lake, the city hasn't gotten around to that question. "The city council has never passed a comprehensive policy with regard to farmers' markets," she said. "I think the thinking," with the first market in Old Oakland in 1989, "was that providing fresh fruits and vegetables is a benefit to the people." The second component, she said, which developed later, is that "it's a festive public gathering that tends to attract people to the neighborhood."

"The Grand Lake market has become phenomenally successful beyond our wildest dreams," Kernighan continued. She described the lines outside **Arizmendi**, **Lakeshore Cafe**, **Starbucks**, and **Peet's** on Saturday mornings, the pedestrian traffic that slows to a standstill on Lakeshore, the parking difficulties that encourage residents to walk to the market from a half-mile away. The market, she and others began to realize, "has really some wonderful benefits, but it also had some downsides that need to be dealt with."

It's this sort of gap in city policy that motivated the formation of the Oakland Food Policy Council, which began meeting two years ago to advise the city council on issues pertaining to food security and public health. Early this year, the city council listened to a ten-minute presentation by the food policy council of its first set of recommendations. Many of them addressed ways to standardize farmers' markets so that they accept food stamps and are more accessible to poor communities. But coordinator **Alethea Harper** said there is no timeline to implement the proposals. "We're learning that policy can be slow," she said.

Yet even if the city council does get around to the proposals, none of them addresses the issue of including more Oakland-based vendors at the markets.

As for concerns such as parking difficulties and competition with brick-and-mortar stores, Kernighan's office put together an advisory committee of local residents and merchants in April 2007 that meets regularly. She said she has also begun negotiating with the Agricultural Institute of Marin "about them contributing some money for the upkeep of the park," which was not designed for the large crowds it now hosts on a weekly basis. "I think we need to deal with the issue of whether the markets contribute somehow to the use of their space, whether it's a street or a park."

After her three rejections from the Grand Lake market, Little Paper Monkey's Aparna Rao is ready to give up. "The last time I applied I really thought I'd get in. I got no explanation," she said while sipping tea near her Grand Avenue apartment. Now Rao has her eyes on another dream — on a process that is much more arduous, but just may bear fruit — a storefront.

Located down the street from her, the artisans' cooperative she has planned would connect Oakland artists with their target local clientele. The idea emerged out of her frustrating experience with the Grand Lake market, and her realization that she was not alone. "It seems like the markets are here, and the artisans are here. I just want to bring them together," she said.

Right now she has two young kids to keep her busy. But sometime in the future when she gathers the resources to open a shop, she thinks it'll be a hit in her neighborhood. And if all goes according to plan, she'll have the farmers' market to thank for, if nothing else, motivating a new local brick-and-mortar enterprise. ●

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

The odd couple: Gene Yang and Thien Pham

CULTURE SPY

ON ASIAN PARENTING: 'LEVEL UP' SEEKS MIDDLE GROUND

East Bay graphic novelists spin YA tale about filial duty, pixelated daydreams.

By Luke Tsai

When **Gene Yang** was growing up, his dad wanted for him what any self-respecting Asian immigrant wants for his child: that he become a doctor, a lawyer, an engineer — something practical. All Yang wanted to do was draw comics.

It's a familiar theme, that tension between following your heart and honoring your parents — and one that Yang saw playing out all the time in pop culture, always with the same moral. Call it the "Bend It like Beckham" theory of happiness: Whatever old-fashioned ideas your parents might have, you *should* try to play soccer professionally if that's what you want to do. Go ahead, become an artist, a dancer, a chef.

Of course, Yang ended up pursuing the arts after all and found success, perhaps beyond his wildest dreams. The Fremont resident's 2006 graphic novel ***American Born Chinese*** was a National Book Award finalist for Young People's Literature, bringing the ethnic identity issues facing Asian American adolescents into the spotlight and propelling Yang to national fame.

But over the years, Yang says, he's thought a lot about those arguments he used to have with his dad — about the bitterness that so many first- and second-generation immigrant kids feel about their childhood. Now that he has children of his own, Yang thinks about the things he wants to teach them. And, at a time when it's de rigueur for progressive-minded Asian Americans to bash on **Amy Chua** and the scourge of Tiger Mom-dom, he considers a possibility no one likes to dwell on much: What if mom and dad were right all along?

At the very least, Yang says, "I just don't think the resolution is completely turning your back on everything your parents say."

For his latest young adult project, Yang teamed up with his friend and fellow comics artist **Thien Pham** to write ***Level Up***, which will be released by First Second Books on June 7. The graphic novel tells the story of Dennis Ouyang, a college student who's torn between his love of video games and his deceased father's desire for him to become a doctor — and not just any doctor, but a gastroenterologist, a "poop doctor." The burden of that expectation haunts him, literally, in the form of four pint-sized angels who appear mysteriously to cajole and nag him toward fulfilling his destiny — miniature "Tiger Moms," if you will.

It's a tale that's by turns mildly trippy, scatologically jokey, and unapologetically earnest. But at its heart, *Level Up* is about coming to terms with the struggle that so many young people face — Asian Americans often just in more obvious ways than most — to reconcile their own hopes and dreams with the demands and expectations of their parents.

Event Details

Thien Pham and Gene Yang will sign copies of *Level Up* at San Francisco's Mission: Comics & Art on Friday, June 3 (6 p.m.), at a "draw off" at Flying Colors Comics (2980 Treat Blvd., Concord) on Saturday, June 4 (time TBA), and at the Emeryville Barnes & Noble (5604 Bay St.) on Tuesday, June 7 (7 p.m.)

Yang and Pham have been friends for a long time — and co-workers, too, as both have day jobs as teachers at Oakland's **Bishop O'Dowd High School**. But in some ways they're an odd couple: Yang is tall and bespectacled, mild-mannered, introspective, more sarcastic than you'd expect. He looks more like a tech guy than an artistic type — heck, he is the tech guy at O'Dowd. Pham is the outsized personality: the smack talker, the maker of outrageous statements. Everyone is his "fam"; everyone gets a big smile.

Artistically speaking, too, theirs is a bit of an unlikely collaboration. If you look at *American Born Chinese* or any of Yang's drawings, you're struck by the clean lines and crisp colors. For *Level Up*, Yang was the one who wrote the story and came up with the concept, but Pham did all of the art, employing a drawing style that's simple and perhaps slightly old-fashioned, everything done with pen and watercolor. He'll shift into monochrome for pages at a time, and those panels are tinged with nostalgia and melancholy — there's one lovely image of the protagonist chucking a handful of arcade tokens across a moonlit sky.

The overall effect is less precise and a little bit rougher around the edges than Yang's previous books, but Pham says that's in keeping with his own artistic philosophy: "I just throw it down."

What both artists bring to the table is the particular baggage that children of Asian immigrants often talk about: the pressure to be academically successful, the sometimes-pervasive emotional distance, the push toward practical career choices.

For Pham, who is of Vietnamese descent, his parents seemed to give up on the idea of him becoming some kind of doctor or whatever by the time he got to high school. But for years after that he was still plagued by guilt that he wasn't adequately repaying their sacrifices.

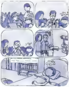
"Because Asian parents, if you took away the guilt, they have no power," he said. "That was all it was — it was all about the Asian guilt."

Both Pham and Yang have brothers who did go into the medical profession, and Pham says for years his parents would brag to their friends about all of his brother's successes without ever mentioning that they had another son.

And Yang still recalls, vividly, those tense conversations with his father about what kinds of occupations were "practical" enough. But as he's gotten older, he's grown increasingly disillusioned with the notion, perpetuated by any number of Hollywood movies and Disney animated features, that people should always do whatever their heart tells them to do.

"Both [Thien and I] know people who have followed their heart and only their heart and sort of forgotten everything practical," he explained. "In real life it doesn't always lead to happiness."

At the same time, Yang started to have the sneaking suspicion that maybe his father wasn't so unreasonable after all — that there was something essential behind that constant insistence that he become a doctor, a lawyer, or an engineer. He thought: what if it wasn't just about the money or the prestige? What if it was more about using your talents to do some good in the world, about not just living selfishly to please yourself?



Level Up explores issues relating to Asian Americans, but the creators say it has universal appeal.

Maybe *that* was the key to striking that balance — to finding, as Yang put it, "some way of going about your life where you pursue your dreams while integrating the wisdom that you get from your parents."

Writing *Level Up* was Yang's way of sorting through some of these thoughts, and suffice it to say that the moral of the story is not that teenagers who love video games should pursue that obsession at the expense of everything else in their lives. But it also isn't that young people should subsume their will wholly to whatever life their parents have imagined for them. Yang is happy to occupy a more ambiguous middle ground, both in the fictional coming-of-age stories he writes as well as in his own life.

"I think this is true for both Thien and me, that in a lot of ways, even though we are both pursuing the arts, I think we want to do it in a much more thoughtful and practical way than maybe we see in some of our peers."

Pham, too, has made peace with his Asian upbringing — with how tough his parents could be on him and how from an early age he always had to work in the video store they owned. Now he thinks he wouldn't have wanted to be raised any other way. Pham says he'll walk into an Asian restaurant and see some ten-year-old kid serving tea and think, "Oh man, your life sucks! But at the same time ... I remember when I worked with my parents. It sucked, but I remember it very nostalgically and not in bad terms now."

At the same time, he thinks a lot of the talk about Asian parenting is overblown. "As Asian people, we over-romanticize our childhood. We talk about Asian parents and Tiger Moms and all this — but every kid goes through the same thing."

That being the case, *Level Up* isn't just for Asian kids. Pham stresses his belief that the book should have universal appeal, especially for young people who are still trying to figure out what to do with their lives. Or for anyone who can remember what that was like.

To see more excerpts from the book, go to EastBayExpress.com. ■

Letters@EastBayExpress.com

EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

Charlie Banks-Altekruse demonstrates proper rowing technique.

Row, Row, Row Your Boat

Berkeley Paddling and Rowing Club offers a free introductory class for National Learn to Row Day

Charlie Banks-Altekruse fell in love with rowing in the early Seventies in Northern Ireland, where he was studying abroad as a high-school exchange student. He was drawn to the mysterious sport when he noticed groups of rowers propelling boats out to nearby islands dotted with decrepit stone castles. "I thought that was pretty exotic, so I gave it a shot," he said.

His initial curiosity turned into decades of competitive rowing. In 1980 Banks-Altekruse served as the captain of Harvard's undefeated rowing team, and later was a member of the US Olympic team. He's also picked up both silver and bronze medals from the World Rowing Championships.

"Rowing is a great sport because it's a lifelong sport," he said. "It's good for all parts of your body and it doesn't cause a lot of wear and tear. And just being on the water is a very sort of therapeutic, meditative thing — it's really relaxing and rejuvenating."

After years of professional rowing, Banks-Altekruse settled in Berkeley in 1999 and soon sought out a local space to stretch out his sea legs. He found such a spot at Berkeley's Aquatic Park, where he joined the **Berkeley Paddling and Rowing Club**, a group that invites rowers and paddlers of all skill levels.

Anyone similarly intrigued by the sport will find the perfect occasion to test the waters on Saturday, June 4, when the Berkeley Paddling and Rowing Club offers free introductory tutorials at its **Aquatic Park boathouse** (2851 Bolivar Dr., Berkeley) as part of the tenth annual **National Learn to Row Day**. People of all ages and experience levels are invited to attend the event, in which a group of experienced coaches will teach the basics before accompanying the newly anointed rowers as they maneuver oars and rowing shells onto the lake's shallow waters. The greatest difficulty of the sport, Banks-Altekruse said, is maintaining balance and coordination with the boat and its oars. As a precaution, coaches will accompany new rowers in two- and four-person boats provided by the club.

Banks-Altekruse has helped run the event for the past five years, and will be on hand this year to share the logistics of the sport, from general safety tips to boat handling. Attendees will first practice on an ergometer — an on-land rowing machine that mimics the motion of rowing — and by the end of the day should be able to maneuver a boat on the water. "It's a great resource for the community," Banks-Altekruse said. "It's not strenuous and it's not complicated." The event is sponsored in part by USRowing, the national governing body for the sport, and the Concept2 rowing company. Some food will be provided, but participants may want to bring along provisions including sunscreen, sunglasses, and water — plus an extra pair of socks in case anyone gets their feet wet, which, at least in the figurative sense, is the whole point of the day. 9 a.m.-noon, free. BerkeleyRowingClub.org.

— Connie Harwood

FAIRS, FESTIVALS & FIESTAS

Chocolate and Chalk Art Festival The 15th annual festival is a chance for both dreamers and serious artists alike to brighten the streets with colorful chalk drawings. Work will be judged at the end of the evening, with $250 awarded to the winning artist and $75 gift certificates for runners-up. Bring your own chalk or purchase at the event for $10. Attendees can also purchase tickets to sample a variety of fancy and organic chocolate and [illegible]. Sat., June 4, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. [illegible] Gourmet Ghetto, Shattuck Ave. (between Rose and Delaware Sts.), Berkeley. www.NorthShattuck.org.

Goodguys 18th Summer Get-Together Custom Car Show and Swap Meet Two-day automotive festival with more than 2,500 hot rods, custom cars, muscle cars, and trucks of all years and [illegible] activities, live entertainment and [illegible] for kids. Sat., June 4, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., June 5, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. $8-$17. Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave., Pleasanton, 925-426-2600. AlamedaCountyFair.com.

Temescal Street Fair With arts and crafts, kids' [illegible], two stages' worth of music and dance performances, and more. Sun., June 5, 12-5 p.m., free. Telegraph Ave., between 40th and 51st Sts., Oakland.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Kerry's Kids: Salvation Army A mobile health van where doctors provide immunizations, health education, check-ups, blood pressure checks, and Head Start screenings entirely free to children. Health physician is Daniel Kalberg, MD. Please bring your child's yellow immunization card. First Wednesday of every month, 5:30-7 p.m., free. 510-444-4320. Salvation Army, 2794 Garden St., Oakland, 510-437-9437. SalvationArmyUSA.org.

Jazz Music and Vinyasa Flow [illegible] Carnahan and Daniel [illegible] lead mindful vinyasa practice with live music. First Thursday of every month. 7th Heaven Yoga, 2820 7th St., Berkeley, 510-665-4599. 7thHeavenYoga.com.

KIDS

Camp Day for Families With fishing, crafting, scavenger hunting, and other outdoor activities. Sponsored by Roughing It Day Camp. Sat., June 4, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. [illegible] Lafayette Reservoir, 3849 Mt. Diablo Road, Lafayette.

Early Literacy Night Stories, crafts, and tips for young readers. First Monday of every month, 5:30-6:30 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Martin Luther King Jr. Branch, 6833 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-615-5728. OaklandLibrary.org.

Elderberry Flute Making Workshop Naturalist Anthony Fisher will give a lesson in elderberry flute-making, an instrument that originated in Native California. For ages 10 and up. Sat., June 4, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. $10-$12. Tilden Nature Area, North end of Central Park Dr., Berkeley, 510-544-2233. EBParks.org/Parks/Tilden.

Empty Bowls Learn about [illegible] and [illegible], enjoy a simple but delicious meal of soup and bread, and take home a hand-painted bowl. With a silent auction and entertainment as well by Abby and the Pajamasons. Hosted by CBS 5 weekend anchor and reporter Ann Notarangelo. Thu., June 2, 6-8 p.m. $35-$50. Alameda County Community Food Bank, 7900 Edgewater Drive, Oakland. 510-635-3663.

Family Extravaganza: Art Mornings Arts and crafts workshop, supplies provided. First Saturday of every month, 1-3 p.m., [illegible]. Museum of Children's Art, 538 9th St., Oakland, 510-465-8770. MOCHA.org.

Kids Carnival With a climbing wall, jumpy bounce house, games, food, raffle and other entertainment. Call 510-644-8812 for more information. Sun., June 5, 12-4 p.m. [illegible] Rosa Parks Elementary School, 920 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-644-8812.

Kids Self-Defense and Safety Skills Class A class that uses role play and practice to teach children confidence and basic self-defense. For kids ages 6-12. Reserve a space by calling 510-652-0242. Sat., June 4, 12-1:30 p.m., free. Studio Naga, 5801 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville, 510-652-0242. StudioNaga.com.

2010-2011 SEASON

music dance theater

Cal Performances

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

The Royal Danish Ballet
Berkeley Symphony
Tue, May 31, 8 pm; Wed, June 1, 8 pm and Fri & Sat, June 3 & 4, 8 pm, Zellerbach Hall

The world's third oldest ballet company, famed for both its dedication to the works of the great August Bournonville and development of a robust modern style, makes its first Bay Area appearance in 56 years with two programs. The first features Bournonville's timeless Romantic masterpiece *La Sylphide*; the second is an exciting survey of modern Nordic choreography.

Program A (Tue & Wed): Bournonville: *La Sylphide*, music by H.S. Løvenskiold · Flindt: *The Lesson*, music by Georges Delerue

Program B (Fri & Sat): *Nordic Modern Choreography:* Thomas Lund and Nikolaj Hübbe: *Bournonville Variations* · Jorma Elo: *Lost on Slow*, music by Vivaldi · Dane Johan Kobborg: *Alumnae* · Jorma Uotinen: *Earth*, music by Metallica and Apocalyptica

Ojai North!
Dawn Upshaw, *music director*
Maria Schneider Orchestra
Maria Schneider, *conductor*
Mon, June 13, 8 pm, Zellerbach Hall

Renowned for creating evocative, majestic, and heart-stoppingly gorgeous music, Grammy Award-winning composer, arranger, and conductor Maria Schneider brings her superb 21-piece jazz orchestra to Zellerbach Hall.

Dawn Upshaw, *soprano*
& The Australian Chamber Orchestra
Richard Tognetti, *artistic director & conductor*
Tue, June 14, 8 pm, Zellerbach Hall

Soprano Dawn Upshaw, joined by the Australian Chamber Orchestra, performs a new work by Maria Schneider.

Program: Webern: *Five Pieces for Strings* · George Crumb: *Excerpts from Black Angels* · Maria Schneider: Bay Area premiere · Bartók/Tognetti: *Five Hungarian Folk Songs* · Grieg/Tognetti: *String Quartet in G Minor*

George Crumb's
The Winds of Destiny
Dawn Upshaw, *soprano*, **Peter Sellars,** *director*
Gilbert Kalish, *piano*
red fish blue fish with Steven Schick, *percussion*
Ustad Farida Mahwash, Homayoun Sakhi, and the Sakhi Ensemble
Thu & Sat, June 16 & 18, 8 pm
Zellerbach Playhouse

This **Bay Area premiere** features a new staged production of George Crumb's *The Winds of Destiny* and a concert featuring some of Afghanistan's most distinguished musicians. Sellars and Upshaw's riveting new work interprets Civil War songs and spirituals, as set by George Crumb, framed through the eyes of an American veteran returning from the war in Afghanistan (played by Upshaw). Beloved Afghan singer Ustad Farida Mahwash and internationally renowned Afghan rubab master Homayoun Sakhi and his ensemble also perform songs celebrating both the past and future of Afghan music.

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[illegible] Rainbow [illegible] at Playland-Not-at-the-Beach [illegible] June 4-5. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., [illegible] Playland-Not-at-the-Beach, [illegible] San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, Playland-Not-at-the-Beach.org.

[illegible] in Berkeley [illegible] June 5, 3 p.m. free. [illegible] Berkeley. [illegible] Fourth St. [illegible]

Reptile Rendezvous [illegible] June 5. [illegible] p.m., free. Tilden Nature Area, North end of Central Park Dr., Berkeley. 510-544-2233, EBParks.org/Parks/vc/TNA.

San Lorenzo Farmers' Market [illegible] Day [illegible] First Saturday of every month, [illegible] free. San Lorenzo Farmers, [illegible] and Paseo Grande, San Lorenzo.

[illegible] [illegible] 510-981-6121. Berkeley Public Library, Central [illegible] 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100, BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

[illegible] Inauguration [illegible] Berkeley City College [illegible] Berkeley High School [illegible] Sat., June 4, 2-4 p.m., free. YMCA-PG&E Teen Center, 2111 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley.

The World's [illegible] Bubble Show [illegible] The Marsh Berkeley at Gaia Arts Center, 2120 [illegible] Berkeley. 510-644-8948, TheMarsh.org.

LGBT

Rainbow [illegible] [illegible] June 5, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Tilden Nature Area, [illegible] Central Park Dr., Berkeley. 510-544-2233, EBParks.org/Parks/vc/TNA.

Transgender Support Group [illegible] 1-3 p.m., free. [illegible] Rainbow Community Center of Contra Costa County, 2024 Willow Pass Rd., Concord. [illegible]

Trip the Light Fantastic [illegible] Lake Merritt [illegible] 200 Grand Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Meditation Workshop: [illegible] of Oakland [illegible] Sat., June 4, 10 a.m.-4:45 p.m., [illegible] 1815 Highland Pl., Berkeley.

Sunday [illegible] Meditation and Awareness Series [illegible] Sundays, 1-9 p.m. [illegible] 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley. [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Wed., June 1, 7:30-9 p.m. [illegible] Community Church, [illegible] Berkeley. 510-526-3805.

SALES PROMOTIONS, & FUNDRAISERS

FUNDRAISER Party [illegible] Fri., June 3, [illegible] Richmond.

Spring Into Summer Auction and Soiree [illegible] Sat., June 4, [illegible] Merritt College, 12500 Campus Dr., Oakland. [illegible]

SOCIAL EVENTS

Community Craft Night at Julie's Thursdays, 7-9 p.m. Julie's Coffee & Tea Garden, 1223 Park St., Alameda. 510-865-2385, JuliesTea.com.

[illegible] Salon [illegible] First [illegible] Sunday of every month, 1-4 p.m., free. [illegible] Community Center of the East Bay, 1414 [illegible] St., Berkeley. [illegible]

Rainbow [illegible] [illegible] Third Wednesday of every month, 6-8 p.m. [illegible] 2271 Broadway, Oakland. [illegible]

Kensington Library Knitting Club [illegible] Wed., June 8, 7-8 p.m., free. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., Albany.

Kensington [illegible] Knitting Club [illegible] First Monday of every month, 7 p.m. Kensington Branch Library, 61 Arlington Ave., Kensington. 510-524-3043.

Scrabble Club [illegible] Third and First Saturday of every month, 1-4 p.m. [illegible] 4920 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-547-4PUN (4786), [illegible]

[illegible] Night [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] First Thursday of every month, 5 p.m., [illegible] 925-302-0813, [illegible] 925-[illegible]

Oakland [illegible] [illegible] First Thursday of every month, [illegible] San Ramon Valley Rd., San Ramon. [illegible]

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

Adult Fast-Pitch Softball Saturdays, noon, free. [illegible] Park, [illegible] Ave., [illegible] Oakland. [illegible]

Bay Area Stand Up [illegible] Clinic [illegible] Sat., June 4, 5 p.m.-8 p.m. [illegible] Jack London Aquatic Center, 115 Embarcadero, Oakland. [illegible] JLAC.org.

[illegible] [illegible] First Friday of every month, 5:30 p.m., free. [illegible] 14th St. and Broadway, Oakland.

Drop-In Women's Soccer [illegible] Thursdays, 7:30-9 p.m. Continues through Sept. 15, $5 suggested donation. Ocean View Field, 900 Buchanan Street, Albany.

Hike with East Bay [illegible] [illegible] June 3, 10 a.m., free. Roberts Regional Recreation Area, 10570 Skyline Blvd., Berkeley.

Lake Chabot Trail Challenge [illegible] Sun., June 5, 8 a.m. [illegible] Lake Chabot Golf Course, 11450 Golf Links Rd., Oakland. [illegible] LakeChabotGolf.com.

Walk for [illegible] 2011 [illegible] Sat., June 4, [illegible] Saint Mary's College, 1928 Saint Mary's Rd., Moraga. [illegible]

Windsurfing Contest Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.; Sundays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., [illegible] 201 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-6740, [illegible]

SPORTS-SPECTATOR

Alameda Women's Half-Marathon and 5K [illegible] June 5, 8 a.m., [illegible] Crown Memorial State Beach, Alameda.

[illegible] Golden Gate Fields [illegible] Berkeley. [illegible]

[illegible] Audubon [illegible] Field Trip [illegible] Berkeley. 510-544-2233, EBParks.org/Parks/vc/TNA.

Oakland A's vs. New York Yankees [illegible] June 3, 12:35 p.m., [illegible] Coliseum, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland.

Submissions for calendar listings should be e-mailed to Calendar@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Calendar Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

PICKS

Albany Adult Basketball League

The [illegible] Albany offers men's and co-ed softball teams, a kickball league, and drop-in women's soccer games — but basketball has been absent from the roster — until now. Starting Sunday, June 5, local basketball enthusiasts can finally hit the courts as part of the city's new co-ed **adult recreational basketball league**. "We're trying to create a friendly league that's really inclusive of everyone," said Heather Robinson, the city's adult sports coordinator. "Basketball has a history of getting physical and rough, and we want to avoid that and create a fun and safe environment for people." Teams will play four-on-four games due to the size of the **University Village gym** (1123 Jackson St., Albany), with a minimum of six guys for the first season. Sundays through July 24, 6-9 p.m., $40. 510-559-7016 or AlbanyCa.org. — *Connie Harwood*

Family Fun Festival

Summer [illegible] will [illegible] approaching, and if you can hear the sounds of bounce houses and farm animals, it's [illegible] just your imagination. The **Berkeley Farmers' Market**'s seventh annual **Family Fun Festival** comes to **Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park** (Center St. at Martin Luther King Jr. Way) on Saturday, June 4, bringing with it a colossal variety of free, kid-centric activities: an all-day bouncy house, face painting, a craft booth, a petting zoo, and more. Grammy-nominated Caribbean artist **Asheba** performs at noon, followed by a family dance, a skateboard contest, and the obligatory cakewalk. Brace yourself. 10 a.m., free. 510-548-3333 or EcologyCenter.org. — *CJ*

Sand Castle Contest

Castles in the sand are the goal at Alameda's 45th-annual **Sand Castle and Sand Sculpture Contest**, though there's also a place for sand houses, sand [illegible], and sand beach homes. Builders can register between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., then have until noon to build their ephemeral masterpieces. Separate winners will be crowned for the older set, kids under twelve, and whole families. Judges rate the sandy works on their design, detail, [illegible], and technique. The very best can dig it. Saturday, June 4, at **Robert Crown Memorial State Beach** (Westline and [illegible] Alameda). Awards [illegible] p.m., free. 510-521-7090 or CityofAlamedaCa.gov. — *Kibby Kleiman*

Nitro Trail Race

If you've never been to **Point Pinole Regional Park** (5551 Giant Hwy., Pinole), you're missing out. The 2,300-acre peninsular park has an interesting history as the home of a massive gunpowder manufacturing operation, but that's only the beginning. It's wooded with beautiful (if non-native) eucalyptus, laced with narrow hiking and jogging trails, and ringed with protected marshlands and a rocky beach offering waterfront access. Plus it's got views for days, from Mount Tamalpais to Mount St. Helena. Take it all in while running 5.1, 6.2, or 13.1 miles through the park as part of **Brazen Racing's Nitro Trail** race on Saturday, June 4. All finishers receive medals and T-shirts, but the scenery and fresh air alone are worth the trip. 8:05 a.m., $30-$55. BrazenRacing.com. — *Nate Seltenrich*

ZOOLOGY CENTER'S
BERKELEY FARMERS' MARKETS

FAMILY FUN FEST
Saturday, June 4th
10 am to 3 pm Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market
Civic Center Park, Center Street @ MLK

co-sponsored by
Parents' Press, Bananas, and Downtown Berkeley YMCA

Music by Asheeba
fun Caribbean music for children

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Michael C. McMillen's "Raft of History"

Retrospectocular

Michael C. McMillen's exhibition achieves liftoff

The junk-based assemblage/collage tradition dates back to German Dadaist Kurt Schwitters a century ago, but it took off in mid-century America, evolving into sculpture/painting hybrids and installation artworks increasingly engulfed viewers/participants. Ed Kienholz's theatrical tableaux savaging Cold War paranoia are worthy, if publicly-directed, descendants of Schwitters' compulsively bedecked Merzbau man-caves. Los Angeles sculptor **Michael C. McMillen**, born in 1946, was younger than the Ferus Gallery circle of artists, including Kienholz (well profiled in Morgan Neville's film *The Cool School*), but ***Michael C. McMillen: Train of Thought*** at the **Oakland Museum of California** shows that the roadside-museum aesthetic of Junkboy — it's his self-mocking persona — has art historical legs. Retiring curator **Phil Linhares**, a longtime McMillen fan and friend, has selected nearly seventy pieces that reveal the artist's quirky humor and stunning craftsmanship. (As a boy, McMillen was friends with a Frankenstein special-effects "theatrical magician" and has himself worked in set design for such films as *Blade Runner* and *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*.) McMillen's dilapidated but psychically charged stage sets with their peephole glimpses into oddball miniature worlds strike a plangent, nostalgic, but also hilarious chord.

While this is a large show, featuring four decades' worth of drawings, paintings, sculptures, installation and films, it doesn't overpower, partly due to the dispersion of the works among the permanent collection — there is a treasure map for the goal-directed — and partly because of the works' witty variations in form and materials. Some highlights: very short humorous films made from found footage that reward repeated viewings despite their brevity; "The Box of All Knowledge," a sealed footlocker of undisclosed "contents"; "Famous Last Words," an empty wine bottle presumably preserving [illegible] of Mougins air and soul; "Train of Thought," a railroad trestle emerging from a wall-mounted tunnel that stops in midair, dropping an occasional alphabet pasta letter into a semiological pile below; the Rube Goldberg pinball apparatus of "Deliverance," delivering a bean through a straw onto a dinner plate; a Cornellian array of unprepossessing household junk, "Museum of Wax, Strings and Springs"; "The Raft of History," a fragment of combined sailing man-of-war and Victorian house; and "Pavilion of Rain" and "Red Trailer Motel," evocative walk-in stage sets of derelict buildings — "time markers" — the latter replete with summer-night sound effects and vistas into seedy interiors. Catalog available. *Michael C. McMillen: Train of Thought* runs through August 14 at Oakland Museum of California (1000 Oak St., Oakland). 510-238-2200 or MuseumCa.org

— DeWitt Cheng

ART GALLERIES

3001 Gallery: Feast 2011 Work by Leslie Caroline, Donna Dugnay, Carol Larsen, Karin Luzeak, Nina Stoutridge, Ruth [illegible], and Alexandra van Burg. Through June 5. 1852 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2821, [illegible]Gallery.com

Alta Studios. Guest: Do Art, [illegible] Ambassador Guest the Dog With prints, jewelry, ceramics, photographs, and paintings by 11 various artists. A special exhibit commemorates the late Bay Area landscape artist [illegible]. [illegible] will be ambassador [illegible] the Dog and part of June's Pro Arts East Bay Open Studios. June 4-5, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; June 11-12, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. 4255 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland. 510-[illegible]

Art Guest Gallery & [illegible]: Group Show: Berkeley City College Digital Arts Club With work by more than forty members of Berkeley City College's Digital Arts Club. Through June 15. 2085 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-[illegible]

Basement [illegible], Oakland: Gooter An exploration of the range of emotional response to [illegible] with its potential for [illegible] and its ever-evolving power, with paintings by David Moody and drawings by Laurent Martin. Through Aug. 4. 3[illegible] 3rd St., Oakland. BasementGallery, [illegible]

Berkeley Public Library. [illegible] Studios: [illegible] Experimental tapestry paintings by [illegible]. Through June 25. free. **Berkeley Public Library [illegible]** through June 6. 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100, BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Frank Bette Center for the Arts. Frank Bette: [illegible] and [illegible] A retrospective of the paintings, sculptures, and [illegible] of German-born artist Frank Bette. [illegible] poetry will be [illegible] at the gala opening, June 3 [illegible]. 1601 [illegible] Ave., Alameda. 510-523-6957, FrankBetteCenter.org

[illegible] Gallery: Zoo With a Kickstand Sculpture and large-scale drawings by Steven Branch. Through July 1. **Zoo with a Kickstand** With new sculptures and large-scale drawings by local artist Steven Branch. [illegible] June 3, 6-9 p.m. 455 17th St. [illegible], Oakland. Branch [illegible]

[illegible] Gallery. The Long Bells, The [illegible] Exhibit featuring the manipulation of text and other media by Sarah [illegible] artist Devon [illegible] examines the ways in which the [illegible] of text is [illegible] to express [illegible]. June 3-21, 6-11 p.m. 2318 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland.

Oakland [illegible] Contemporary. Photo-Synthesis Work by Percy Place, Stephen Galloway, and Young Kim. Through July 23. 480 23rd Street, Oakland. 510-268-3464, [illegible]

[illegible] West. [illegible] Girls/Guest Art Opening In conjunction with Art Murmur, an art opening and warehouse party packed with art and entertainment. Music by [illegible] and [illegible]; [illegible] paintings by Sylvia Le, three-dimensional wall art by "[illegible]" [illegible] and many more artists and crafters. Fri., June 3, 8-11 p.m. free. 401 26th St., Oakland

The Compound Gallery. [illegible] Vinyl Work by Jeanne Lorenz [illegible] the thirteenth last record store on the planet, with hand-painted record [illegible] and [illegible]. Through June 5, [illegible]. 1167 65th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible], TheCompoundGallery.com

Oakland [illegible] Studios Gallery. First Friday Series Featuring work by [illegible], Marcel Brulla, [illegible], and [illegible]. First Friday of every month, 6 p.m. 1510 [illegible] St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]

East Bay. East Bay Open Studios More than 400 artists throughout the East Bay open their studios to the public. See ProArtsGallery.org/EBOS for a guide to participating studios. Opening Jun. 4. Saturdays, Sundays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Continues through June 12. free. [illegible]

Expressions Gallery. [illegible] and [illegible] Art Work [illegible] by local artists. Through June 10. 2035 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-644-4930, [illegible]

[illegible] Studios [illegible] Apart Work by Addison Bahaye and [illegible]. Through June 4. free. **[illegible] Apart** Paintings by Patrick Dougas and sculpture by Addison Bahaye. Through June 4. [illegible] **Art that challenges us from within** With paintings by Arlisle Lewis and photography by Lily Earl. June 5-July 23. 1095 [illegible] Place, [illegible] Oakland

Richmond Projects. From the Oakland [illegible] three production art, promotional photos, drawings, scratch-board, [illegible], and digital imagery by Homer Flynn, a designer for the music, video and performance group The Residents. Through June 17. free. 2300 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-3140, [illegible]

Kala Art Institute Gallery. [illegible] Oakland and [illegible] Studios Kala artist-in-residence [illegible] and [illegible] discuss the state of production of their hybrid video project, based on the poem "Argonauts" by Greek poet George Seferis. Thu., June 2, 7-9 p.m. **[illegible] Journal [illegible] & Launch Party** Celebration of the new issue of [illegible] Journal, a literary journal of [illegible]. Complimentary food and [illegible]. June 3, 6-8 p.m. free. 2990 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley

Kala Gallery and Art Institute. Systems of Ordering Work by [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible]. Curated by Lauren Davies. Gallery closed Sun. and Mon. Through July [illegible]. 2990 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-2977, Kala.org

[illegible]. [illegible] the Journal Work by [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible]. Through June 18. 480 23rd St., Oakland

[illegible] Building. Open [illegible] [illegible] paintings. Through June 28. 1611 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-836-8700, [illegible]

Mercury 20 Gallery. [illegible]: Artist × Artists Artist's [illegible] by Charlie Milgar, Kathleen King, [illegible] and others. Through Nov. 20. **Painting Fairy Tales** New paintings by Bay Area artist [illegible] Wallace Sterling, whose new work explores gender along with [illegible] and [illegible] imagery and by women. June 2-25. 475 25th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible], MercuryTwenty.com

[illegible] Gallery. [illegible] Artists [illegible] Group show featuring Bolivian artists from the Bay Area and Mexico, including local [illegible] artist Adrian [illegible]. June 4-24. 2703 7th St., Suite 103, Berkeley

Mythos Fine Art & Artifacts. Looking Fine Looking Through Paintings by [illegible] and [illegible], Lily [illegible], Mary [illegible], and others. Through June 18. [illegible] Ave., Berkeley

NIAD Art Center. [illegible] Fails Upon Us [illegible] In various media by more than ten artists. Through June 3. 551 23rd St., Richmond. 510-620-0290, NIADArt.org.

Pro Arts Gallery. East Bay Open Studios Exhibition "Living catalog" of work by the dozens of local artists participating in East Bay Open Studios. Through June 11. **Oakland Arts Night** Pro Arts extends its gallery hours in conjunction with Oakland's Art Night. First Friday of every month, 6-9 p.m. free. [illegible] 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-763-4361

Richmond Art Center. Beyond Tradition: Art Legacies of the Richmond Art Center With work by various artists from the center's [illegible]. Through June [illegible]. 2540 Barrett Ave., Richmond. 510-[illegible], TheRichmondArtCenter.org.

Royal Nonesuch Studios. Planetary [illegible] A solo exhibition by artist Emily [illegible] that revolves around an [illegible] and [illegible] of [illegible], site-specific art. For the duration of the exhibition, [illegible] are invited to contribute to the opening gallery space. Fri., June 3, 7-10 p.m., June 4 [illegible]. 4231 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 415-[illegible], RoyalNonesuch[illegible] Gallery.com

San Pablo Art Gallery. [illegible] Works by California College of the Arts alumni including Steven Branch, Chandra Cerrito, Ian Dodge, Lori Gering, Abbey Gomez, Carole Jeong, Sam Perry, Elizabeth Barbara Rogers, and Eileen [illegible]. Through June 18. free. 13831 San Pablo Ave., San Pablo. 510-[illegible]. Ci.San-Pablo.ca.us.

Smokey's Tangle. [illegible] With photographs and installation by San Francisco-based artist [illegible]. Fri., June 3, 6-8 p.m. 4106 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. SmokeysTangle.com

[illegible] Studios + Gallery. In the Oakland [illegible] With new works of gold leaf and [illegible] drawings on paper by Sarah A. Smith, as well as [illegible] by Shawn [illegible]. [illegible] Signs and Symbols. June 4-July 2. 560 2nd St., Oakland. 510-839-2781, [illegible]Gallery.com

Studios Gallery. Art in [illegible]: An Afternoon with Michael Morgan and Joshua [illegible] An art event with [illegible] featuring artist Amos [illegible], silent and live auctions and live entertainment. Artists only take [illegible]. For more information, e-mail [illegible]. Sat., June 4, 2-5 p.m. [illegible]. 3175 W. 12th [illegible], Oakland

Traywick Contemporary. [illegible] "Reductive Landscapes" Made from cut vinyl, cast-coated paper, acrylic panels and [illegible] by Renata Roman. Through July 8. 895 Colusa Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-1214, Traywick.com.

[illegible] & Foodie. [illegible] and Foodie Open Studios With art by Flora Aldea, Julie Barcelata, Carol Taylor, Elia Nygaard, Colin Wedding, and many more. Entertainment by [illegible], Little Spoon and others. Part of Pro Arts' East Bay Open Studios. Twenty percent of artists from the opening reception go toward The Foodie Project, a non-profit organization benefiting the [illegible]. Fri., June 3, 6-9 p.m.; June 4-5, June 11-12. 401 26th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]

A Voice for Keeping [illegible]: Photography by Christopher [illegible] [illegible] photography. Through June 8. free. 5328 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

Vessel Gallery. Spring Showcase New, spring-themed work by various artists by [illegible], Natalie Cartwright, Walter James Mansfield, Cyrus Tilton, Bryson Bost, Luke Heimbigner, and Mari Marks. Through June 18. free. 471 25th St., Oakland

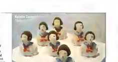
The [illegible]. Pro Arts at Warehouse 416 With a variety of art by Marsha [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], and Sally Landis. June 3-5, June 11-12. 416 [illegible] St., Oakland

the Artspace. I Like It Pink New work by [illegible]. Through June 25. 708 [illegible] St., Oakland. 415-[illegible], [illegible]

PICKS

Intermission/ Spring Showcase

Intermission: Five Bay Area Painters explores landscape, symbolism, and even photo imagery. **David Alpperspach**'s [illegible] paintings pare [illegible] evoke space, light, and structure, while **Lisa Fornaldi Barker**'s flattened shapes and sonorous colors and **Carol Lefkowitz**'s feathery-edged color rectangles create meditative spaces both visual and visionary. **Joanne Fox**'s [illegible] juxtapose black Xs and squares with fluid painterly backgrounds, suggesting [illegible] analogies, and **Anne Subercaseaux** imbues simplified forms from cropped photographs with quiet mystery. Through June 11 at **Slate Contemporary** (4770 Telegraph Ave., Oakland), 510-652-4085 or SlateArtandDesign.com. **Vessel Gallery** has reopened, after a hiatus, with *Spring Showcase*, featuring brand-new work by gallery artists and introducing **Bryson Bost**, **Luke Heimbigner** and **Mari Marks**. Don't miss **Natalie Cartwright**'s "School Girls," Heimbigner's "Range 1," **Walter James Mansfield**'s "Cumulus, Marks, [illegible] Series," and **Cyrus Tilton**'s "The Mandrill and the Mantis." Through June 18 at Vessel Gallery (471 25th St., Oakland), 510-893-8800 or VesselGallery.com. *— DeWitt Cheng*



Natalie Cartwright's "School Girls"

DeWitt Cheng

American Vinyl/ Selective Nature

Two shows explore representation and reality through themes and variations. **Joanne Lorenz**'s installation ***American Vinyl*** imagines the record store as a museum of faux LPs and 45s (i.e., paint and painting rumblers) reminiscent, in their frontality, painterly manner, deadpan ambiguity, and discontinuous compositions, of Jasper Johns' greatest hits. [illegible] metaphysics aside, pieces like "Survival Evasion and Escape" and "Everyman" also succeed as abraded-looking abstract tondos. Through June 5 (artist talk at 3p.m.) at **Compound Gallery** (1167 65th St., Oakland), 510-655-9042 or CompoundGallery.com. **Alex Jackson** explores pictorial conventions in *Selective Nature* (a play on natural selection?), drawings and gouache paintings of botanical forms with their accomplished, dramatic illusionism subverted by contoured cropping, assertive non-rectangular background shapes (e.g., ornate baroque frames), and heavily textured or brightly colored industrial material (polyethylene, iridescent diffraction film, vinyl tile, textured privacy Plexiglas). Through June 11 at **Studio Quercus** (385 26th St., Oakland), 510-452-4670 or StudioQuercus.com. *— D.C.*

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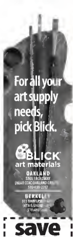
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First Friday

ART OPENINGS & EVENTS

See the Art Gallery listings in the *Express* for more information on East Bay art showings

Spend an evening supporting local arts!

Some venues offering art openings and/or special events on First Friday, June 3rd.

ALAMEDA

Frank Bette Center
1601 Paru St.

ALBANY

Gathering Tribes
1412 Solano Ave.

BERKELEY

Berkeley Art Museum
2626 Bancroft Way

Berkeley Potters Guild
731 Jones St.

Kala Gallery
2990 San Pablo Ave.

Urbanity
1887 Solano Ave

KENSINGTON

Nan Phelps Photography
398 Colusa Ave

OAKLAND

21 Grand
416 25th St

4707 Gallery
4707 Telegraph

57th Street Gallery
5701 Telegraph Ave.

Anna Edwards Gallery
237 East 14th St.

Actual Cafe
6334 San Pablo Ave.

Bay Area Visual Arts Network
455 17th St.

Bellevue Club
525 Bellevue Ave

Book Zoo
14 Glen Ave

Buzz Gallery
2318 Telegraph Ave.

Café Van Kleef
1621 Telegraph Ave

Chandra Cerrito Gallery
25 Grand Ave

Classic Cars West
411 26th St

Clausen House
650 Grand Ave

The Compound Gallery
1167 65th St.

Creative Growth
355 24th St.

The Crucible's Cathedral Gallery
1615 Broadway

Dasa Arts
4810 Telegraph

Five Ten Studio
831 Broadway Ave

FM Gallery
483 25th St.

Forthrite Gallery
5857 San Pablo Ave

Front Gallery
35 Grand Ave

Gamma Space
6608 San Pablo Ave

Great Wall of Oakland
Back wall on Grand Ave, between Broadway and Valley

Hatch
492 23rd St.

Johansson Projects
2300 Telegraph Ave

Joyce Gordon Gallery
406 14th St.

Krowswork Gallery
480 23rd St.

Kuhl Frames + Art
472 22nd St

The Layover
1517 Franklin St

Levende East
827 Washington St.

Liraille
3980 Piedmont Ave.

LeBot Gallery
1800 Campbell St.

Lukas Taproom & Lounge
2221 Broadway

Macarthur Barthur
4030 MLK Way

Mercury 20
475 25th St.

The Moon
447 25th St.

Oakopolis
447 25th St.

Paradise Lounge
2272 Telegraph Ave.

ProArts
150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza

Pro Arts @ Latham Square
1611 Telegraph Ave

RAW Gallery
1951 Telegraph Ave.

Red Door Gallery
416 26th St.

Rock Paper Scissors Collective
2278 Telegraph Ave.

Rooz Café
1918 Park Blvd.

Royal Nonesuch Gallery
4231 Telegraph

Rowan Morrison
330 40th St.

SLATE Contemporary
4770 Telegraph Ave

Smokey's Tangle
4709 Telegraph Ave

Somar Bar and Lounge
1727 Telegraph Ave

Spice Monkey Café and Restaurant
1628 Webster St.

Studio One Art Center
365 45th St

Studio Quercus
385 26th St.

Swarm Studios & Gallery
560 2nd St.

The Sweet'Art Drawing Gallery
6602 San Pablo Ave.

Tech Liminal
268 14th St.

Temescal Arts Center
511 48th St.

Thelma Harris Art Gallery
5940 College Ave

UrbanSpace Gallery
811 Washington St
San Leandro

Vessel Gallery
471 25th St

Warehouse 416
416 26th St.

If you are an East Bay venue offering a First Friday evening art event, please email your information to Promotions@EastBayExpress.com to be included in the July directory

EAST BAY EXPRESS

Hoegaarden
bière blanche

THEATER & DANCE

COMEDY

4th Nationwide Laugh Competition: Good Good Ridden #2 [illegible] Bay Area comedians compete for laughs in the last semi-final before the final round of Sprawl 15-week comedy competition. Sat., June 4, 7:30-8 p.m. $10. Rooster's Comedy Lounge, 5513 Regional St., Dublin. 925-264-4413. DublinComedy.com.

Go Funny With local comics. Hosted by Christopher Riggins and featuring DJ Adal. Tuesdays, 8 p.m. free. The New Parish, 579 18th St., Oakland. TheNewParish.com.

Marga's Funny Mondays Weekly comedy and variety showcase, featuring a rotating cast of comedians and hosted by local comedian Marga Gomez. Mondays, 8 p.m. $10. The Marsh Berkeley at Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-644-4049. TheMarsh.org.

Saturday Night Comedy with [illegible] and [illegible] Johnny Steele Featuring a rotating stable of other performers. Saturdays, 8 p.m., $15-35 sliding scale. $50 reserved seats. The Marsh Berkeley at Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-644-4049. TheMarsh.org.

David Jump [illegible] A monthly showcase of improvised [illegible]. First Saturday of every month, 8 p.m. $14. [illegible] Arts Center, 531 40th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]ArtsCenter.org.

Rebuttal: Oakland Inspired A vaudeville game show-style MC [illegible] and poetry slam hosted by Jamie Kennedy and Geoff [illegible]. First Thursday of every month, 8:30 p.m. $1-$10. Oakland Metro Opera House, 630 3rd St., Oakland. 510-763-1146. OaklandMetro.org.

DANCE-PERFORMANCE

[illegible] 10th Anniversary [illegible] With performances of PEACE, an interpretive exploration of the minds and bodies of people living with Parkinson's Disease, and REVEAL Freedom, a multi-generational and multicultural dance ensemble inspired by the life and work of [illegible] and human rights [illegible]. June 3-5, 8-10 p.m. $15 advance; $20 door. Laney College theater, 900 Fallon St., Oakland. 510-464-3543.

The Royal Danish Ballet Presenting two different programs. Program A (Tue. and Wed.): a Bournonville La Sylphide, music by H. S. Løvenskiold and [illegible]; while Program B (Fri. and Sat.) features [illegible] music by [illegible] and [illegible], as well as other Nordic contemporary pieces. Wed., June 1, 8 p.m.; Fri., June 3, 8 p.m.; Sat., June 4, 8 p.m. $[illegible]. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-9988. CalPerformances.org.

LIVE VARIETY

Final Family Performance: Good [illegible] adapted and live directed and dance performances by [illegible] Johnson, singer [illegible] Trent, [illegible] Evans, [illegible] and [illegible] improvisation by Positive Knowledge, dancing by [illegible] and dance/improvisation by [illegible]. Fri., June 3, 6-8 p.m. Joyce Gordon Gallery, 406 14th St., Oakland. 510-465-8928. JoyceGordonGallery.Wordpress.com.

Snap Judgment Live! Glynn Washington hosts this two-day live showcase of NPR's new radio show featuring various storytellers and a live band. June 3-4, 8:30 p.m. $18. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400. MuseumCA.org.

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

David in the Night Through June 25. $38. Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-943-7469. DLRCA.org.

The Care of Good Magical-realist drama, written by E. Hunter Spreen and directed by Susannah Martin. [illegible] and Sun. [illegible] schedule. Through June 18. $11-$20. Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-6500. ShotgunPlayers.org.

Dispossessed World premiere dark family and [illegible] comedy. Written by [illegible]. Directed by [illegible] Cheung. Produced by [illegible] and starring [illegible]. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through June 11. $10-$30. La Val's Subterranean Theatre, 1834 Euclid Ave., Berkeley. 510-234-6046.

Best 14th: True Tales of a Reluctant Player One-man show by [illegible]. Sundays, 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 8:30 p.m. Continues through June 14. $20-$35 sliding scale. Reserved seating $50. The Marsh Berkeley at Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-644-4049. TheMarsh.org.

David in the Night Blues-themed [illegible] directed and choreographed by Robert Barry Fleming and Glenn Pearson, and starring Debbie [illegible], Amanda [illegible], and C.R. Lewis. Wed. at 7:30 p.m., Thurs-Sat. at 8 p.m., and Sat. and Sun. at 2:30 p.m. Through June 26. $36-$41. Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-943-SHOW. LesherArtsCenter.org.

Let Me Down Easy One-woman show about "the body and the body politic," written and performed by Anna Deavere Smith and directed by Leonard Foglia. Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 8 p.m.; Wednesdays at 7 p.m.; Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m.; and Sundays at 2 p.m., with various [illegible]. June 1-26. $13-$73. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949. BerkeleyRep.org.

Metamorphosis [illegible] horror-comedy about [illegible] transformation from man to monster [illegible]. Written by [illegible] and [illegible] the Gardener, adapted from the [illegible] of the same name by Franz Kafka, directed by Mark [illegible]. Plays Tues. at 7 p.m., Wed-Sat. 8 p.m., and Sun. at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. June 3-July 10. $10-$55. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-843-4822. AuroraTheatre.org.

Natasha of Moonlight: The Musical Masquers Playhouse presents [illegible] the classic Broadway musical directed by Arthur [illegible]. Reservations can be made online at Masquers.org, or by calling 510-232-4031. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m., Sun., June 12, 2 p.m. $20. Park [illegible] theater, 105 Park Place, Point Richmond.

Not a Genuine Black Man One-man show written and performed by Brian Copeland. Starting June 1 [illegible] performance [illegible] on Saturdays. Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 5 p.m. Continues through July 16. $20-35 sliding scale or $50 reserved seats. The Marsh Berkeley at Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-644-4049. TheMarsh.org.

Queen Adaptation of the story of Bluebeard, written and directed by Amy Sass and produced by the Ragged Wing ensemble. Featuring Mikayla Blunck, Keith C. David, Evelyn Gallery, Lisa Klein, and [illegible]. First Thursday-Saturday of every month, 8 p.m. Continues through June 13. $15-$50. Central Stage, 5221 Central Ave., Richmond.

Sabotay & Hart: A Celebration [illegible] revue featuring [illegible] and [illegible] Xavier Sutter, Charles Evans, William Blammons, Heather Hall, Laura Langlie and Jennifer [illegible]. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m., with additional matinee Thursday night at 8 p.m. in June. See website for full schedule. Through June 12. $20-$28. Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 N. Third St., Hayward. 510-881-6777.

Titus Andronicus The Shakespeare tragedy, directed by [illegible] starring [illegible] Carpenter, produced by Cal Shakes, and [illegible] in an outdoor amphitheater. See CalShakes.org for full performance schedule and ticket prices. June 1-26. Bruns Memorial Amphitheater, 100 Gateway Blvd., Orinda. 510-548-9666. CalShakes.org.

Tipping Point: The Musical All-Berkeley [illegible] first original musical, about [illegible] of a small town [illegible] while preparing for [illegible]. Sat., June 4, 1 & 7:30 p.m.; Sat., June 11, 2 & 8 p.m. $12-$15. Crowden Center for Music in the Community, 1475 Rose St., Berkeley. 510-559-6910. TheCrowdenSchool.org.

Welcome Home: Jenny Sutter Drama about an Iraq war veteran. Written by Julie Marie Myatt and directed by Dominique Lozano. Plays Thurs.-Sat. at 8 p.m. and Sun. at 2 p.m. Through June 19. $10-$20. Marion E. Greene Black Box theater, 531 19th St., Oakland.

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown A musical based on Charles M. Schulz' comic strip Peanuts, performed by the Berkeley Playhouse Conservatory [illegible] (grades 3-5). Pajamas encouraged for the June 4 show at 10 a.m.; peanut butter and jelly sandwiches served at the 1 p.m. performance. Thu., June 2, 1:30 p.m.; Fri., June 3, 7:30 p.m.; Sat., June 4, 10 a.m., 1, 5 & 8 p.m. $15-$20; $10 for groups of 20 or more. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-8542. JuliaMorgan.org.

PICKS

Cure of Trees

For all its intellectual pretensions and wildly disparate themes — the shortcomings of language, disease as metaphor, environmentalism, philosophy and love, psychoanalysis, memory, the transience of nature — **Shotgun Players'** latest is a rather traditional romantic folk tale. But don't worry, folks. It's not quite as Seventies as it sounds. The story is about a single relationship that starts off idyllic but runs into a seemingly intractable problem. The two characters, Travis Dekalb (played by a savagely handsome **Patrick Russell**) and Georgia Swift (the sensuous **Liz Sklar**) have enough onstage chemistry to make their love scenes extremely sensual, and their arguments frustratingly realistic. They speak in a loopy, elliptical language that's supposed to highlight its own deficiencies. Videography by **Ian Winters** and a soundscape by **Jake Rodriguez** enhance **Nina Ball's** elaborate tree-house set design. And, fittingly, tree metaphors abound. Through June 26 at **The Ashby Stage** (1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley). $17-$25. 510-841-6500 or *ShotgunPlayers.org*. — *Rachel Swan*

Cure of Trees

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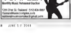

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THEATER

NOT SO SATURNINE

Rob Campbell enjoys playing a repellant villain

By Rachel Swan

Rob Campbell saw his first production of Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus* about 22 years ago at **Yale School of Drama**. He fell in love with it even then. It's actually not an easy play to love. Oft-maligned for being relentlessly violent and gruesome — I can tell you, without spoiling it, that there are multiple mutilations, a rape, and a cannibalism scene akin to the meat pies in *Sweeney Todd* — the play has garnered many unflattering tag lines. Salon reviewer **Charles Taylor** described it as "very near to Elizabethan pulp." PopMatters critic **Cynthia Fuchs** said it was "Shakespeare's most notorious meltdown play." The 1999 film by **Julie Taymor** didn't do anything to burnish the play's reputation.

The real Rob Campbell is thoughtful and soft-spoken.

But Campbell said that he sees *Titus* as the work of a young writer just beginning to explore themes that later appear in *King Lear* and *Richard III* — such as that of the old man whose adherence to tradition is part of his undoing. In the current production at **California Shakespeare Theater**, famed local actor **James Carpenter** plays Titus, the Roman general who is named emperor at the behest of his brother. **Anna Bullard** is his daughter Lavinia. **Stacy Ross** is Tamora, the villainous Queen of Goths — and Titus' arch rival. And Campbell is Saturninus, the dastardly power monger to whom Titus eventually cedes his throne.

Always vacillating between his own self-interest and his thin sense of familial obligation, Saturninus is perhaps the most interesting character in the play. He's one of those guys who becomes evil by example — or, more accurately, because at the end of the first act he hooks up with Tamora. He's the consummate stooge.

Or so thought Campbell, who plays Saturninus as an unreliable shape-shifter whose actions are hard to predict. "Every time you think he's going to take the high road, he turns around and becomes a bad guy again." Cal Shakes marketing director **Marilyn Langbern** said the performance made her shiver. "He's scary good."

But the real Rob Campbell is thoughtful and soft-spoken. He's spent a good deal of time studying the play and psychoanalyzing his character. "He's clearly a very damaged guy," Campbell said, eating a candy bar as he waited for rehearsal to start last Thursday. "You see really quickly, from the beginning of the first act to the end of the first act, that his damage is dangerous. He's immediately attracted to one of the two villains of the play."

And it's easy to see why, when you consider the seductive powers of Queen Tamora. To Campbell, she supplies a kind of "evil magic" that seems unique to Shakespearean femme fatales. Ross, who played Lady Macbeth in another Cal Shakes production overseen by the same director (**Joel Sass**, who is quickly establishing himself as an Oliver Stone of Elizabethan theater), seems like a perfect choice for the role. Thin and bird-like, she's capable of transforming into the kind of manipulator who feeds on male weakness. In *Macbeth*, she chewed up and immediately disgorged her husband's insecurities, easily molding him into the type of man she wanted. In *Titus*, she's vicious, Campbell assured. "I think Tamora's confidence, her extreme clarity as a villain — that's extremely hot. It's a total turn-on."

Show Details:
Titus Andronicus runs through June 26 at Bruns Amphitheater (100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda). 510-548-9666. CalShakes.org

Not every Saturninus is genuinely attracted to Tamora. Many directors try to soft-pedal their relationship so that it appears to be all about power and opportunity. Some actors play Saturninus as a lily-livered, ill-tempered brat — such was the tack that **Alan Cumming** took in the 1999 Hollywood version. Some even render him a closet homosexual whose marriage is but a ruse. Campbell's Saturninus is much more alluring. He's a sexual being, he's inscrutable, he's obviously insane, but there's a reason behind his madness. He's not a foil for Tamora, but he might actually be a good partner.

Campbell has played other troubled men — including Reverend Hale in *The Crucible* and Ethan Watson in *Sex and the City* — and thus has no problem tackling Shakespeare's most repellant bad guy (or one of them, at least). In fact, he plays the role with gusto. ●

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LECTURES & LIT

Gourmet for the People

Robin Donovan and Juliana Gallin believe even the lazy should eat well

There are two kinds of cooks in this world — those who learn at a parent's (or grandparent's) knee, and those who learn out of necessity. **Robin Donovan** is the former; **Juliana Gallin** the latter. The pair met in a communal house while attending UC Santa Cruz, where meals were prepared en masse to a wide variety of qualitative results. Donovan eventually became a food writer now living in Albany; Gallin became a graphic designer based in San Francisco, and the pair stayed in touch. A realization by Gallin that some of the best food is the easiest to prepare inspired the two to create ***The Lazy Gourmet***, a cookbook whose release will be celebrated on Thursday, June 2, at **Diesel** (5433 College Ave., Oakland).

Robin Donovan and Juliana Gallin

"We want people, especially those who might not be super experienced or comfortable in the kitchen, to feel empowered to make these recipes their own," the two cooks wrote in an e-mail. "In that spirit, we offer change it up points — suggestions for ingredient substitutions — at the end of many of our recipes. We hope these help the reader feel more relaxed about preparing the dish — the world won't come to an end if the recipe is not followed word for word. In fact, the dish might even turn out more suited to the cook's tastes, and he or she might become a better and more relaxed cook from having exercised some creativity."

In order to ensure each recipe's ease of use and relative merit, Donovan and Gallin enlisted more than fifty "regular home cooks" to try making the recipes; the testers then filled out detailed feedback forms allowing the writers to alter and, in some cases, 86 dishes entirely — penne cotta, goat cheese-stuffed chicken breast, and steak with rosemary-red wine reduction were a few that didn't make the cut. The key criteria they established were: easiness ("Our designer did a great job typesetting the book in a way that's easy on the eyes. And all of the recipes fit entirely onto one page — or if they're longer, one spread — so that the user doesn't have to keep turning pages back and forth"), impressiveness, and that ever-elusive "x factor," something that made it stand out. That could be an unusual flavor combination (like watermelon salad with feta and pickled onions), an unusual cooking technique (like trout baked in a crust of coarse salt), a simplified version of a dish known to be very complicated to make (chicken mole or prawns romesco), a dish cooked and served in individual ramekins (flourless chocolate mini cakes), or even, in some cases, just a fancy French pedigree (like steak au poivre or cherry clafoutis)."

This writer is a hesitant — and yes, lazy — wanna be foodie who can say, with certainty, that the shredded Brussels sprouts with horseradish cream, pasta with asparagus, leeks, and chèvre, above-referenced lemon herb salt-baked trout, and particularly the caramelized fennel are that rare combination of tasty, simple, and fancy schmancy. (Seriously, people, caramelizing is the holy grail of pretending to know how to cook.) The publication party will include a reading and some samples of blue cheese and pecan shortbreads with fig and onion jam, white bean spread with parmesan and mint, and other tasty treats. 7 p.m., free. 510-653-9965 or DieselBookstore.com

— Stefanie Kalem

LECTURES

Ann Ellice Parker: Speaking Death Death education counselor Ann Ellice Parker, who operates the Seasons of Change Opus and [illegible] at Berkeley, will discuss issues surrounding death in America, as well as integrative alternatives, the home funeral and ecological burial. Questions encouraged. Mon., June 6, 7:30 p.m. $5, free for club members. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley, 510-848-3227, [illegible].

"artiFACTS" The monthly flea market for collectors takes place after the Alameda Point Antiques and Collectibles Faire. First Sunday of every month, 3 p.m. $5-$7. [illegible] Theater, [illegible] Point Naval Air Station, Alameda. 510-[illegible], [illegible].

Andy Mower: Backpacking Basics Topics covered will include how to select gear, clothing and footwear, and how to find the right path. Wed., June 1, 7-8:30 p.m. free. REI Berkeley, 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-527-4140, REI.com.

Changes in Cuba: What does it mean for Cubans and the US? [illegible] of politics in Cuba following the recent convention of the 6th Congress of the country's Communist Party and the 50th anniversary of the attempted overthrow of its revolution at Playa Girón. Led by author, educator and foreign correspondent Karen Wald, who has lived and worked in Cuba. Sat., June 4, 10 a.m., free. [illegible] Library, [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-595-[illegible], [illegible].

Jeff Greenwald: Speaking the Rooted "Travel Writing" The travel writer presents [illegible]. Wed., June 1, 6 p.m., free. Oakland Main Library, 125 14th St., Oakland.

LITERARY EVENTS

Bay Area Poets Coalition Open Reading First Saturday of every month, 3-5 p.m., free. Strawberry Creek Lodge, 1320 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-841-[illegible].

The Best Women's Travel Writing 2011 With accounts by various enterprising women travelers. [illegible] Fri., June 3, 7 p.m., free. Booksmith, Berkeley, 1340 Fourth St., Berkeley.

Chris Adrian The author reads from his new novel, *The Great Night*, a story about [illegible] in San Francisco's Buena Vista Park [illegible]. [illegible] book signing and a wine and cheese reception. Call [illegible] Books at 800-[illegible] for more information. Thu., June 2, 6:30 p.m. [illegible] California Shakespeare Theater, [illegible].

[illegible] Writing Koans and Open Mic Workshop Learn how to transform your writing [illegible] and learn how to use audio and video equipment to record performances. [illegible] Sat., June 4, 1-3 & 4-6 p.m., free. El Sobrante Library, 4191 Appian Way, El Sobrante, 510-374-3991, [illegible].

David Axelrod Presenting his new novel, *Some Jerk for Nothing*, a story about the [illegible]. Tue., June 7, 7 p.m., free. Booksmith, Berkeley, 1700 Fourth St., Berkeley.

David Berkeley Presenting his memoir *140 Goats and a Guitar*. Wed., June 1, 7 p.m., free. Booksmith, Berkeley, 1700 Fourth St., Berkeley.

Poetry Flash: Derek Bogle and Jon Wallace [illegible], recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts grant, reads from [illegible]. [illegible] Wallace reads from his new poetry book [illegible]. Thu., June 2, 7:30 p.m. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2087, MoesBooks.com.

Dr. Kristin Neff: Self-Compassion: Stop Beating Yourself Up and Leave Insecurity Behind The Associate Professor in [illegible] at the University of Texas at Austin [illegible] her new book, which teaches readers to be happier [illegible]

PICKS

Jacqueline Luckett, Eva Tuschman, and Erin Van Rheenan

Seventh in the popular annual series, ***The Best Women's Travel Writing 2011*** offers tales of lunch with a Bedouin mother, delivering a Best Tea-Hater trophy, a rural Serbia camel rides, nudity, and many more adventures in Brazil, India, Cuba, Guyana, Syria, Ireland, Cambodia, and beyond. Contributors **Jacqueline Luckett, Eva Tuschman,** and **Erin Van Rheenan** bring it all back home to **Books Inc.** (1760 Fourth St., Berkeley) on Friday, June 3, 7 p.m., free. 510-525-7777 or BooksInc.net — *Stefanie Kalem*

Bill Berkson and Clark Coolidge

Abstract impressionist Philip Guston was mostly self-taught — he and schoolmate (and New York School mate) Jackson Pollock were expelled from the Los Angeles Manual Arts High School, and while Pollock returned to graduate, Guston did not. Still, Guston went on to lead the charge into Neo-expressionism and become an influential educator for generations of artists. Poet **Clark Coolidge** and poet/critic **Bill Berkson** discuss Guston through crafted collection ***Philip Guston: Collected Writings, Lectures, and Conversations*** on Wednesday, June 8, at **Moe's Books** (2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley), 7:30 p.m., free. 510-849-2087 or MoesBooks.com — *S.K.*

First Person Singular

The monthly hybrid of performance and literary reading returns with a musically steered, spontaneously scathing take on autobiography. Berkeley novelist **Elizabeth Rosner** (*Speed of Light*, *Blue Nude*) reads Lorrie Moore's short story "People Like That Are the Only People Here," accompanied by cellist **Rachel Turner Houk** of Quartet Ranger, for **First Person Singular**: a Somewhat Autobiographical Installment on Wednesday, June 8, at **Pegasus Books** (1855 Solano Ave., Berkeley), 7:30 p.m., free. 510-525-6888 or PegasusBookstore.com — *S.K.*

Rick and Bill Ayers

Teaching [illegible] and myth is [illegible] bedrock and confronting [illegible] of the heart of a truly effective educational experience, say educators, authors, and brothers **Rick and Bill Ayers**. The parochial pair discuss their new book, ***Teaching the Taboo: Courage and Imagination in the Classroom***, with **Jon Carroll** as part of a series at **Park Day School** (360 42nd St., Oakland) on Wednesday, June 8, 7 p.m., $30. 510-653-0317 or ParkDaySchool.org — *S.K.*

com. Thu., June 2, 8 p.m., free. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley.

[illegible] Reading from her novel, *[illegible] West*. June 1, 6:30 p.m., free. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

[illegible] Little Laura Music, a musical [illegible] entertainment group, presents its first book, *Little Laura and the Birthday Surprise*, the first in a bilingual English and Mandarin Chinese musical storybook adventure series. Sun., June 5, 3 p.m. [illegible] Books of Berkeley, 2566 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-2350. [illegible]

Mystery Reading Group Group discussion of mystery [illegible] facilitated by [illegible] author Camille [illegible]. First Tuesday of every month, 6:30-8 p.m. Castro Valley Library, 3600 Norbridge Ave., Castro Valley, 510-670-6280.

[illegible] Book Club Meeting Meeting to discuss T.C. Boyle's novel *The Tortilla Curtain*. Everyone welcome. Thu., June 2, 7 p.m., free. El Sobrante Library, 4191 Appian Way, El Sobrante, 510-374-3991. www.contra-costa.lib.ca.us/branch/[illegible]

The [illegible] Book Group This month: *[illegible] School: An American Woman Goes Behind the Veil* by Deborah Rodriguez. First Thursday of every month, 7-9 p.m., free. El Sobrante Library, 4191 Appian Way, El Sobrante, 510-374-3991. www.contra-costa.lib.ca.us/branch/[illegible]

[illegible] Donovan and Juliana Gallin: The Lazy Gourmet Publication party for the local authors' new cookbook, which, through a collection of simple and tasty recipes, aims to dispel the belief that elegant cooking requires massive skill and a multitude of free time. Thu., June 2, 7 p.m., free. Diesel, A Bookstore, 5433 College Ave., Oakland, 510-653-9965. DieselBookstore.com.

PUBLIC INTEREST

Adoption Workshop Hear about the children in your community who need families, get an overview of the adoption process and find out how to begin. [illegible] Special-Kid family who has completed an adoption. First Tuesday of every month, 6-8 p.m. AASK Adopt a Special Kid, 8201 Edgewater Dr., Ste. 103, Oakland, 510-553-1748 ex. 12. AASK.org.

[illegible] Metaphysical Toastmasters Club of Berkeley Public speaking club with a "metaphysical emphasis." First and third Thursday of every month, 6:45-8:45 p.m., free. St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-6830.

Celebrating Life & Death in San [illegible] A presentation on [illegible] inspiration [illegible] by tours of the San Lorenzo Pioneer Cemetery located at the corner of Hesperian Boulevard and College Street. Sat., June 4, 10 a.m., free. San Lorenzo Library, 395 Paseo Grande, San Lorenzo, 510-670-6283.

Democracy for America Reading The Alameda chapter invites everyone to attend its monthly meeting for food, drink, and [illegible] and progressive policies. Register at DFA.[illegible]. First Wednesday of every month, 6 p.m. Pasta Pelican, 2455 Mariner Square Dr., Alameda, 510-864-7427. PastaPelican.com.

Food Not Bombs General Meeting Planning meeting for upcoming and ongoing Food Not Bombs meals. First Wednesday of every month, 7:30 p.m., free. Long Haul, 3124 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-0751.

Free Book Exchange Give and get free books of all genres. Saturdays, Sundays, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., free. Bay Area Free Book Exchange, 10520 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-526-1941.

Celebrating Adversity With [illegible] about overcoming adversity, such as that of world-famous hearing-impaired percussionist Evelyn Glennie. Thu., June 2, 3:30-5:30 p.m., free. AgeSong Lake Merritt, 1800 Madison Street, Oakland, 510-903-3600. www.AgeSong.com.

SPOKEN WORD

The Berkeley Poetry Slam Hosted by Charles Ellik, Bette Not, Music by 3 Blind Mice. Wednesdays, 8 p.m., $5. Starry Plough, 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-2082. StarryPlough-Pub.com.

Last Word Poetry [illegible] Poetry showcase and open mic. First Friday of every month, 7 p.m. First Saturday of every month, 7 p.m., free. Hotel Café, 1854 Euclid St., Berkeley, 510-841-8174.

[illegible] & Spoken Word Open Mic First Sunday of every month, 4-6 p.m., free. Café [illegible], 1337 Park St., Alameda, 510-769-4878. CaféJavaVerde.us.

Open Mic Sign up at 7:30 p.m. First and third Tuesday of every month, 8 p.m., $3-$5 suggested donation.

Poetry Unmuffled A twice-monthly open mic with featured readers hosted by poetry emeritus Deb Savino. First and third Tuesday of every month, 7:30-9 p.m., free. Works Gallery Café, 3926 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-482-2933. WorldGround-Cafe.com.

Thursday [illegible] Word Book She draws poems, racer bikes, and [illegible] on horseback. [illegible] Carole Dalfelt reads her poetry at the Mediterranean Café with Daniel Johnson, who reads his awakening to the Blues. An open mic follows. [illegible] by Wade Collum, Boots Grace Whittak, and Jeremy [illegible] Slagel. 8 p.m. Thursdays, 8 p.m., free. AngelFire.com/poetry/[illegible]. Mediterranean Cafe, 2495 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-1128.

[illegible] Word Art [illegible] and Oral History Night An [illegible] event for [illegible] speakers, [illegible] will be allotted 3-8 minutes to tell their stories or present their opinions. Singing begins at 6:15. First and third Friday of every month, 6:30 p.m. [illegible]. Café Mocha [illegible], 13700 Doolittle Dr., San Leandro, 510-351-0904.

Submissions for calendar listings should be e-mailed to Calendar@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Calendar Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

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robin donovan & juliana gallin

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THURSDAY JUNE 9TH AT 7PM

josh wilker, david anthony, and pete nelson

THE FREE BEER TOUR

[illegible] AT 7PM

bruce isaacson & toni mirosevich

POETRY FLASH

WEDNESDAY JUNE 15TH AT 7PM

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EXILES

TUESDAY JUNE 21ST AT 7PM

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SUNDAY JUNE 26TH AT 3PM

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AQUARIUM AGE

FROM THE SHADOWS OF THE PSYCHE

For the week of June 17 2011.

By Ralfee Finn

For the next several weeks, a network of astral activity signals the potential for significant shifts in the routines of daily life. These changes, both personal and collective, happen quickly — so quickly in fact, that you'll need to be careful not to strain yourself trying to keep up. Persistent attempts to mimic the cosmic pace could result in psychic whiplash. Be aware that information drives these shifts, and some of us are likely to feel discombobulated or disoriented by an overload of data, especially when it alters compass headings and sets some of us traveling in an entirely different direction. What's more, extreme emotional sensitivity is also probable, as previously veiled places of the heart are revealed, and feelings long held at bay surge to the surface of interactions. But that's not all. Because this is an eclipse season, time feels distorted, and that irregularity exacerbates a sense of disorientation. As always, try to remember: We are all going through this together, and a kind word or gesture to a fellow traveler could have a powerful, positive effect.

A solar eclipse in Gemini on June 1 is at the epicenter of this week's shifts. When the Moon overshadows the Sun, what's unconscious dominates conscious concerns, and because Gemini gathers and disseminates data, all sorts of unconscious information could emerge from the shadows of psyche, personal and collective. Don't be surprised if you suddenly remember a lifetime on Alpha Centauri that explains why *Star Trek* is so pivotal to your worldview. Also be prepared for emotional realizations about the power of relating. Saturn, in Libra, trines both the Sun and the Moon during this solar eclipse, a position that is likely to skew some of the emerging data toward relationship issues. Be prepared for heartfelt encounters about what could have been, what should have been and what is still possible. Saturn has been retrograde since January, but on June 12 it goes direct. This change in direction is likely to ground some of the recent relationship issues and emotional revelations into concrete action.

But before that, on June 3, Neptune begins a retrograde phase that will last until November. Neptune is the Olympian God of the sea and also the Ruler of Pisces. It symbolizes the waters of the world, and in the astrological system, the waters of psyche, conscious and unconscious. Part of its initial entry into Pisces on April 4, literally opened the floodgates with torrential rainstorms and the catharsis of heartfelt tears for those suffering from floods and tornados.

And there's more: On Saturday, June 4, Jupiter, the planet of great good fortune, moves into Taurus, the Sign of earthly sensuality. It's a combination certain to arouse lusty appetites, a desire for comfort and the need for creative expression. Life is the greatest garden you will ever plant, and while Jupiter is in Taurus, the potential for gorgeous growth is gigantic.

The good news is that while the current planetary patterns are intense, they also provide opportunities for deep transformation, through great leaps of creative and spiritual faith. Be courageous as well as hopeful about the possibility of positive change.

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon Sign, read that, too.

ARIES Be courageous and share your feelings with significant others. If you are true to yourself, that authenticity will catalyze a profound shift in attitude — yours and theirs — as well as a change in behavior.

TAURUS If you only measure your worth in dollars and cents, you will never know your true value, and that would be a shame because you are so much more than a bank account.

GEMINI You may not be surprising yourself, but your recent behavior is definitely astonishing others. Continue to be true to you, and you'll emerge from this identity crisis reborn.

CANCER Keep a dream journal handy and pay attention to your dreams even if they seem strange. They are delivering important information from the depths of your unconscious.

LEO There are opportunities for powerful synchronicities, so notice who comes into your life before you try to pigeonhole their role; ask yourself what he or she is mirroring to you.

VIRGO There are important career choices to be made, but making clear decisions requires gathering the right information. Give yourself enough time to assess the data, and you'll make the right move.

LIBRA The universe rearranges itself to accommodate your picture of reality, so be clear about what you want and what you need. If you're certain about what matters most to you, you'll find others who share a similar vision.

SCORPIO Consider the entire situation an opportunity to improve your skill in handling difficult changes. But don't forget to acknowledge just how hard you worked to make the transition go smoothly.

SAGITTARIUS Either significant others reveal important information or you deliver important data to them. Either way, remember to keep breathing. Even if some of what's said is disturbing, your innate sense of irony will see you through.

CAPRICORN Rather than take your strong constitution for granted, pay attention to your health and notice where you could improve your fitness habits. Exercise, nutrition, meditation — whatever will keep you healthy.

AQUARIUS Give yourself permission to fall in love with everyone you meet for at least five minutes, and you'll shift yourself out of the doldrums. Not every spark will start a fire, but that doesn't mean flirting can't be fun.

PISCES Let the light move through the broken pieces and you'll find the mosaic of your life to be far more beautiful than previously imagined. And then, just for a moment, be glad to be you. ●

For More Info

Ralfee Finn specializes in Transformational Astrology. For readings, call 1-888-937-5264, write P.O. Box 343, New York, NY 10025, visit AquarianAge.com, or e-mail Ralfee@AquarianAge.com. Copyright © 2011 by Ralfee Finn

Go for the plain old grilled pork chop

Chris Duffey

BEGINNINGS AND ENDINGS AT THE BALTIC

Hundred-year-old Point Richmond spot reinvents itself again

By Matthew Stafford

Occasional bouts of food poisoning notwithstanding, being a restaurant critic isn't a bad way to make a living. There's the ridiculous fact that someone's paying you to go out and eat. If the service is snooty because you're part of the wrong demographic, you can tell the whole world about it. And if your beat happens to be the always intriguing smorgasbord of the East Bay, you're sure to come across snacks and platters and sweets and cocktails well worth remembering. During my three and a half years reviewing restaurants for the *Express* I've eaten at 94 restaurants, and while seven of them were god-awful, a good two dozen gave my colleagues and me that sweet, satisfied, all-is-right-with-the-world feeling that only a really terrific meal can deliver.

So where to go for my final *Express* restaurant column? I considered **Chez Panisse**, but getting a reservation on two days' notice was problematic, or **Fondue Fred**, a fondly remembered vestige of my college days, but they don't serve hard liquor and this was going to be an evening that required hard liquor. Happily **The Baltic** in Point Richmond not only dispenses the hooch cheerfully and professionally but it also was the first East Bay restaurant I ever went to: an exotic, ancient drinking hole in a tiny village on the mysterious eastern shores of the Richmond Bridge that happened to serve the best pizza I'd ever tasted.

The Baltic has reinvented itself so many times it's not surprising that the pizza has been supplanted by a full German menu. The 107-year-old brick Victorian started out as a neighborhood tavern and in the decades since has served as a bordello, funeral parlor, firehouse, city hall, speakeasy, nightspot, and restaurant. Today it's as dimly lit and as well worn as you'd hope such a venerable local legend would be, with lots of exposed brick and polished dark wood, old amber wall sconces, stained glass and billiard-felt accents, and the establishment's star attraction, a beautiful old bar with an enormous back mirror that's been a fixture since the place opened. (It's even mentioned in one of Jack London's early tales.)

The Baltic's house cuisine is as hearty and unique as German food itself, fragrant with sauerkraut and sausage and caraway and apples, but the quality of the execution ranges from fresh and tasty to heavy and bland. One meal-opener, potato pancakes, had a nice crunchy texture but little flavor. The appetizer-size Nurnberger bratwursts, on the other hand, were creamy on the inside and perfectly grilled and crackly-crisp on the outside, with a bed of tangy sauerkraut adding zing and bite. The split pea soup with sausage was thick, creamy, smoky, and robust, a lovely bowl on a cool, foggy night, while the seemingly simple house salad turned out to be a lovely, palate-cleansing mosaic of red beets, white cabbage, carrots, and cucumber doused in a brisk, tart dressing.

The Baltic

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Sample Menu

Potato pancakes	$7.50
Fresh Bratwurst	$16.50
Cheese Spätzle	$13.50
Jagerschnitzel	$17.50
Sauerbraten	$19.50
Apple Strudel	$6

One of our favorite entrées was another simple dish, the spaetzle with caramelized onions, a marvelous variation on mac 'n' cheese — half chewy, buttery noodles and half melted Emmentaller served in a big molten cheesy casserole. Despite all of the spinach, onion, goat cheese, and roasted red peppers that went into it, the vegetable strudel had an under-seasoned quality, but it was undeniably hearty. The house wienerschnitzel (breaded pork loin) was on the bland side as well, with too much crunchy breading to boot; we liked the somewhat juicier *jaegerschnitzel* (sautéed pork loin with mushroom sauce) more, although it could've used a bit of spicing as well. The plain old grilled pork chop fared better, with its smoky flavor and prickly sauerkraut, and the fresh bratwurst was a treat — coarse in texture but milder than the Nurnberger variety, with a crunchy, brown skin for contrast. The *sauerbraten* (braised wine-marinated beef with cranberry sauce) had a robust sweet-and-sour flavor but was as dry as the *schnitzel*, as was the surprisingly mild venison steak. But the beef goulash (stew) was fork-tender yet hearty, with a hint of paprika and lots of rich flavor.

For dessert there's a nice Black Forest cake with a light whipped-cream frosting, bits of sweet iridescent cherry tucked between the layers of fluffy chocolate cake, and chocolate shavings scattered throughout, and a really fine apple strudel involving warm and tender spiced fruit, buttery puff pastry, more whipped cream, and a scoop of vanilla ice cream from **Tuckers Ice Creamery** in Alameda for good measure. (Chase it with a cup of coffee from Richmond's own **Catahoula Coffee Company**.)

Despite the beer garden and the house cuisine, the Baltic's draft beer selection is only adequate, offering eight brews on tap, five of them German. (Go for the rich, dark **Spaten Optimator**, especially tasty by the two-liter boot.) The seventeen bottled beers offer a wider selection and include **Weihenstephan Vitus**'s sweet, yeasty hefe-bock. The 25-item wine list is on the disappointing side as well, with only six German whites represented among the locally crafted cabs, pinots, and chardonnays. The bar also shakes up a few specialty cocktails, including the Rumdon, a pleasantly sweet, fruity tropical shakeup of peach schnapps, pineapple juice, and dark rum.

Although the menu is loaded with pork, beef, and venison, there are two entrées (the vegetable strudel and the cheese *spätzle*) ideal for vegetarians. You can kick off an all-veggie meal with the potato pancakes, the split pea soup (hold the sausage), and the salad with beets, cucumbers, carrots, and cabbage. Meatless side dishes include sauerkraut, sautéed spinach, French fries, mashed or roasted potatoes, a mixed house salad, that buttery al dente spätzle, and puckery, creamy braised red cabbage.

After supper we repaired to **Hotel Mac** up the street, because my first *Express* column was about Hotel Mac, and when nostalgia comes a-calling you might as well kick the door wide open. So here's to the Mac and the Baltic and all the other joints high and low that make the East Bay such a fine place to take a meal. ●

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WHAT THE FORK

SUSTAINABLE BUTCHERY COMING TO BERKELEY

Plus: sampling traditional molé ice cream

By John Birdsall

Berkeley is slated to get an artisan butcher shop later this year, one that'll trot out a variety of sustainably raised whole beasts. **The Local Butcher Shop** hopes to launch in early September in the old Karl Hager Kleaners on Cedar and Shattuck, just behind Crepevine, facing the parking lot of the **Andronico's** on North Shattuck. The proprietors: current **Chez Panisse** cook and **Oliveto** alum **Aaron Rocchino** and his wife **Monica**, an account exec at Emeryville's **Paula LeDuc Fine Catering.**

The Rocchinos acquired the 1,100-square-foot North Berkeley space last fall, and spent months lining up permits. The build-out began early last week, but don't expect The Local to look like butcher shops you've known. Instead of the traditional cooler case showing off chops and trimmed loins, the Rocchinos plan to display larger cuts from whole animals and cut all meats to order.

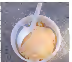
"We want there to be an interaction between butcher and customer," Monica Rocchino told What the Fork. "Our main goal is to educate and build trust." That means not scaring anybody. "For a lot of home cooks, walking in and seeing a huge spread of meat can be overwhelming."

Pork, beef, lamb, chickens, ducks, rabbit, eggs — all animals will come from ranches and farms within a 150 miles of Berkeley, raised in what Rocchino called "an iconic sustainable way," pastured, and grass-fed in the case of grazing animals. Quality (and price) should be akin to that at **Marin Sun Farms'** counter in Rockridge or the **Cafe Rouge** meat market on Fourth Street, but with whiffs of interactivity, like the San Francisco shops **Avedano's** and **Fatted Calf**. Other Local offerings: homemade stocks, demi glace, and rendered fats, plus a daily sandwich.

As for giving the meat counter at Andronico's a bit of unprecedented competition at a time when the local chain is struggling, well, uh — sorry, guys. "Thus far the neighborhood has been really welcoming," Rocchino said, "but so far we've been super undercover."

Then again, will the boutiqueyness of the meats make them affordable only to Berkeley hill dwellers, double-parking their Audis for a consultation about the best cut of beef for braising? Not necessarily, Monica Rocchino. "Because we'll be buying whole animals, we're paying one price — it's the distributors who put an arbitrary value on cuts. We don't want to be so expensive that nobody can afford to shop here." Plans call for highlighting less familiar (read: cheaper) cuts, offered with recipes from Aaron Rocchino that should ease customers' fears of the unknown.

"He's a damn fine cook," his wife said.


John Birdsall
Molé ice cream at Fruitvale's Nieves Cinco de Mayo

Hecho in Oakland

Fruitvale's most traditional ice cream maker has started churning what has to be the East Bay's least conventional flavor: molé.

Back in 2007, the *Express* discovered Fruitvale frozen dessert maker **Luis Abundis**, the only guy in the Bay Area we know who's turning out *nieves de garrafa*: ices made the way they were before the rise of the crank freezer, which is to say completely by hand. Abundis has a smile only slightly less impressive than his upper-body strength. Standing at his *garrafa* — a metal canister wedged inside a wooden bucket filled with ice and salt — he turns out multiple batches of ices every day, beating house-made mixes with a hand-held paddle till they freeze.

Turns out we weren't Abundis' only fan. For a couple of years now, **Lalo Saldaña** — chef and owner of **Cocina Poblana** — has been sourcing vanilla ice cream from **Nieves Cinco de Mayo**, offering it at both his Jack London Square and Emeryville restaurants with a house-made churro cajeta and a Mexican chocolate reduction. Saldaña and Abundis have a connection that runs deeper than mutual admiration — both men grew up in the same region of Jalisco, outside Guadalajara, albeit in separate towns. So when Saldaña sat down to devise the expanded dessert menu he launched this week, his first idea? Appeal to Abundis to provide an expanded range of flavors, including one tailored specifically for Cocina Poblana.

"Since we specialize in molés, we thought it would be nice to see what he could do," said Saldaña. He gave Abundis batches of the restaurant's three red molés. Abundis ended up blending them for the ice cream he eventually came up with: a pale, peach-colored confection made with milk, but — like all of Abundis' ices — no egg. The flavor's gentler than you'd think. There's warmth from the spices, chile that registers more as sweetness than heat, and just a flicker of onion and garlic — it all works together, thanks to the naturally stripped-down texture of Abundis' ice milks, and his tendency not to oversweeten.

Check out the molé ice cream (paired with fried sweet potato chips) at either of Cocina Poblana's locations (5320 65th St. in Emeryville and 499 Embarcadero West in Oakland). Abundis started selling scoops at Nieves Cinco de Mayo, both the original in the **Fruitvale Public Market** (3340 E. 12th St.) and the offshoot (3448 International Blvd.). ●

John.Birdsall@EastBayExpress.com

This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

RESTAURANTS & CAFES

This guide only lists restaurants recommended by Express food writers. You can find complete reviews for all of these restaurants at EastBayExpress.com. Our print listings rotate regularly as space allows. Our complete Dining Guide is available online, where it is searchable by neighborhood, cuisine, price and more. Price codes assume diners will order a main course and beverage, share appetizers and desserts, and tip adequately. $—up to $10 per person. $$—$10-$25. $$$—$25-$50. $$$$—more than $50.

ALAMEDA

Angelfish 563 Island Dr., Ste. C-2, Alameda, 510-749-0407. (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$

Flavors of India 1537 Park St., Alameda, 510-522-0831. (Indian/Pakistani)

Forbidden Island 1304 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-749-0332. (Bars & Clubs/Eclectic/Exotic/Hawaiian/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

Otaez Restaurant 1619 Webster St., Alameda, 510-521-8090. (Mexican) $

Sandwich Board 2412 Webb Ave., Alameda, 510-521-3030. (Deli) $

Speisekammer 2424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-522-1300. (German/Austrian) $$

Yume Sushi 1428 Park St., Alameda, 510-865-7141. (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Zen 2315 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-523-7820. (Eclectic/Exotic/Asian Fusion/Chinese/Hawaiian/Italian/Japanese/Sushi/Korean/Pizza/Seafood/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

ALBANY KENSINGTON & BERKELEY-SOLANO

Bua Luang 1166 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-527-8288. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $

Cafelino 1389 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-6099. (Breakfast/Brunch/Coffeehouses/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

China Village 1335 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-525-2285. (Chinese) $-$$

Fatapple's 7525 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito, 510-528-3433. (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $-$$

Fonda 1501A Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-559-9006. (Mexican/Nuevo Latino/Organic/Sustainable/South American/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$

[illegible] 856 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-524-2220. (Indian/Pakistani) $

The Hot Shop 909 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-528-9091. (Mexican) $

Jerusalem's Organic Kitchen 1807 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-7888. (Middle Eastern/Organic/Sustainable) $

Kathmandu 1410 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-3222. (Tibetan) $$

Lao-Thai Kitchen 1406 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-558-3176. (Cambodian/Laotian/Southeast Asian/Southern/Soul Food/Thai/Burmese) $

[illegible] 825-827 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-528-2552. (French/Italian) $$

Rivoli 1539 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-2542. (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

[illegible] 1137 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-6003. (Korean) $$

[illegible] 817 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-525-7000. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

Vanessa's Bistro 1715 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-8300. (Tapas/Small Plates/Vietnamese) $$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza 1853 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-5950. (Pizza) $-$$

RECENTLY REVIEWED

Trueburger

146 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-208-5678. This lively Uptown burger joint serves classic, simple, beautifully crafted burgers with a few California cuisine touches like daily-ground Angus beef, Bread Workshop challah buns, house-made aioli, and freshly plucked lettuce and tomatoes. Other standouts include the spicy, crunchy coleslaw dog; an earthy, elemental bowl of chili; a fabulous Portobello burger; and a wonderfully garlicky Caesar. Save room for a hand-spun milkshake with your choice of mix-ins (peanut butter, strawberries, caramel, and more). $

Fifth Wheel Food

8411 San Leandro Blvd., San Leandro, 510-635-7538. The hearty homestyle breakfasts and lunches still served in this cute, compact diner (open since 1946) are charming artifacts of an era when meals were meals. The vintage Norris stainless-steel milkshake machine, speckled red linoleum floor, framed lake-and-mountain paintings, "HERE TO SERVE YOU" sign, fourteen built-in stools along a counter lined with napkin dispensers, jelly racks, and sugar jars: It's not ersatz. Chicken-fried steak comes with eggs, toast, and more. Thick-sliced ham, ditto. Patty melts come with French fries or — for the cautious — salad, fruit, or cottage cheese. Fluffy, fragrant French toast and puffy half-inch-high, six-inch-wide pancakes come with eggs and your choice of bacon, ham, hamburger, breaded chicken, or seven different types of sausage. You'll stay full until dusk. $

Pepes Pizza

2516 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-644-5599. Costing less than round-trip BART fare from Berkeley to San Francisco, this pizza/salad/taco buffet might be the best deal in town. The salad bar offers a vat of iceberg, another of assorted greens, and a dozen-plus more bearing other components. Five pizzas with meat toppings, five without, plus outrageous butter-brushed sweet pizza, are refreshed and replaced every fifteen minutes. A nacho machine and taco bar expand the majesty with beef, boiled beans, sour cream, salsa, chopped veggies, and shredded cheese. Cold-drink machines disgorge twelve different beverages, and soft-serve ice-cream comes in two flavors. A gigantic flat-screen TV airs sports events, which is distracting — but rugs absorb much of the sound, so you can actually relax here. The price is certainly relaxing. $

Green Papaya Deli

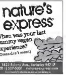
2072 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-261-1567. This tiny friendly International Boulevard eatery prepares and serves some of the Bay Area's brightest, tastiest Lao food: larb (salad) brisk with fresh herbs and lime; intensely flavored chopped catfish steamed in banana leaves; chicken noodle soup fragrant with ginger, shallot, and coconut; sausages made of fermented raw pork and lemongrass, onions, and peppers. There are Thai specialties as well (the beef *pad kee mow* with thick noodles is especially satisfying), and don't forget to order plenty of sticky rice, a Laotian requirement. No liquor, but the sweet, creamy soy milks and Thai iced coffee are worth ordering. $

BEC's Bistro

2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-647-1790. This rambling two-story bar-restaurant-night spot still has the look and vibe of an Irish pub (the building housed Beckett's for a decade), but the entirely revamped menu features organic/sustainable California-Mediterranean specialties, some of them unfocused but many of them impressive. Try the delicate flatbread pizzetta, the seasonal farmers' market soup, and the roasted chicken with Brussels sprouts, and don't miss the apple tart for dessert. House cocktails are on the sweet and insubstantial side, nightly DJs make conversation difficult. $$$

Luca Ristorante Italiano

2057 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-9718. Raised in Molise, southeast of Rome, Luca's owner-chef Luca Rocci cooks dishes representing many parts of his native land: from breaded and-pan fried chicken Milanese to yolky carbonara to squashy-smooth penne with vodka sauce. Lunchtime sandwiches include a juicy muffuletta, and surprisingly filling eggplant parmigiana and a sink 'em-quick sub starring hefty beef-and-pork meatballs. Customize your pasta meal all day by mixing and matching your choice of nine different sauces with six different noodle types. Order at the register then wait to be served at a cozy wooden tables that commands sweeping views of San Pablo Avenue through floor-to-ceiling windows and into the open kitchen where flames flare from Rocci's flying pans. $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Cosmic Brews

Jupiter's house-made beers are put to the test.

If you know Berkeley, you know **Jupiter**. The patio, the live jazz, the pizzas, the Med it runneth olive plate. It's all here, exactly as you remember. So are Jupiter's house brews — ten in all. But the atmosphere at Jupiter is so fine — especially on the patio on a warm weekend evening, or a mild one under heat lamps or near the ever-roaring fire — that casual diners could be inclined to overlook their beers in the haze of good vibes. It's understandable.

But what happens when you take everything out of the equation and focus on the beer alone? Any restaurant boasting ten distinct house brews should be up to the challenge. Not all ten are always on tap; pours come as twenty-ounce "nitras" and the bar doesn't offer anything in the way of a tasting flight. So eat a big dinner at home, sit indoors to insulate yourself from the judgment-clouding ways of that immutable patio, and order from whatever they've got on hand. You may be surprised at what you find.

We started with the XHP - Xtra Hopped Pale (5.6 percent, $4.75). "This ain't your daddy's pale ale," the menu boasts. It's true. In fact, I would've pegged it for a straight IPA if I hadn't known what I'd ordered. The color is a cloudy golden orange and the nose sweet and hoppy. Take a sip and not much changes: a floral, hoppy flavor that's light on the bitters and a bit heavy as it goes down. The only hint that you're dealing with a pale ale is the 5.6 percent alcohol content, a couple points below your average IPA. There's a catch, though: while as a pale it's impressive, as an IPA it's ultimately middling.

Naturally, we proceeded to the IPA proper (7 percent, $5.25). At first glance we were taken aback by its red color — a copper-amber cross. It held a sturdy half-inch head for the five minutes we kept it waiting, also promising. Plus it smelled nice, lightly hoppy, generally inviting. But that was it. The flavor was off, and the finish even worse — a bitter, awkward taste that came on strong as soon as the beer went down and stuck around well afterward. We expected something more from an IPA employing Cascade, Columbus, and Chinook hops, but you know what they say about too many cooks.

Saving the best for last is always fortunate, consciously or not. Jupiter's porter (4.9 percent, $4.75) was a winner through and through: an opaque black color that spoke volumes, a chocolatey nose, a silky smooth texture, and a complex yet straightforward flavor. It's the beer equivalent of a big slice of dense chocolate cake, with a foamy head of frosting on top to boot. Like its surroundings, it's full of character yet never overbearing.

Jupiter's other house beers include an amber, a red ale, a pilsner, a hefeweizen, a Kölsch, a lager, and a dunkle IPA. Each has its niche and its devotees. Next time you're there, test your allegiances.

— Nate Seltenrich

R&C

BERKELEY-DOWNTOWN

Angeline's Louisiana Kitchen 2261 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-6900 (Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Bangkok Thai Cuisine 1410 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-6683. (Thai/Burmese) $

[illegible] 2011 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-9389 (Indian/Pakistani) $

Cafe Tibet 2020 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-[illegible] (Tibetan) $-$$

House Cafe 1901 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-1411 (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $

Chick-O-Pea's 2126 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-8680 (Middle Eastern) $

[illegible] 2721 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-5781 (Seafood/Ice Cream) $

[illegible] Restaurant 2420 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-665-1700 (Italian) $$

[illegible] 2010 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-5658 (Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] 2039 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley, 510-642-0400 (Eclectic/Exotic/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] Smokehouse 2190 Oakland Way, Berkeley, 510-549-0628 (Barbecue) $-$$

Lot 99 Lounge 2050 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-644-2932 (American) $

The [illegible] 2350 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-5[illegible] (Chinese) $

Meridian International Sports Cafe 2050 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-4[illegible]-1450 (American/Bar/Pub) $$

[illegible] Restaurant 2050 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-3[illegible] (Tibetan/Indian/Pakistani) $$

Oscar's 1890 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2984 (American/Diner) $

[illegible] Pizza 2500 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-644-9999 (Pizza/Italian/Mexican) $

[illegible] [illegible], Berkeley, 510-540-1700 (Italian/[illegible]) $

[illegible] 2062 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-9326 (Brewpub/American) $-$$

San Francisco Soup Company 2322 [illegible] Way, Berkeley, 510-848-[illegible] (Soups/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] Cafe 2554 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-548-0100 (Breakfast/Brunch/Burgers/Sandwiches/Dessert/Ice Cream) $

Sunny Side Cafe 2136 Oxford St., Berkeley, 510-845-9900 (American/California Cuisine/Breakfast/Brunch) $$

Turkish Kitchen 1986 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-9887 (Middle Eastern) $$

Udupi Palace 1901 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-6600 (Indian/Pakistani/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] 2258 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-5040 (Desserts/Ice Cream) $

BERKELEY-NORTH

Cha-Ya 1686 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-981-1213 (Japanese/Sushi/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

The Cheese Board Pizza Collective 1512 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-3055 (Bakery/Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $

Cafe Pastoral 1917 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-5049 (California Cuisine/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$-$$$$

[illegible] 1786 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-8965 (Italian) $$

[illegible] 1479 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-1883 (Chinese/[illegible]/Dessert) $

[illegible] 1340 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, 510-526-2260 (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $-$$

Guerilla Cafe 1620 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-2732 (Coffeehouses/Organic/Sustainable/Breakfast/Brunch) $

Imperial Tea Court 1511 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-8888 (Chinese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Northside Cafe 1878 Euclid Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-3983 (American) $

Saul's Restaurant and Delicatessen 1475 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-3354 (Deli/Kosher/[illegible]/Organic/Sustainable) $$

[illegible] 1870 Euclid Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-0[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $

BERKELEY-SOUTH

Breads of India 2448 Sacramento St., Berkeley, 510-848-7684 (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Breads of India 3211 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-655-3461 (Indian/Pakistani) $$

[illegible] 2554 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-8151 (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$

[illegible] Cafe 2454 [illegible] St., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $

Ici 2948 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-665-6054 (Bakery/California Cuisine/Desserts/Ice Cream/Organic/Sustainable) $$

[illegible] 2977 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-7536 (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$

[illegible] 2395 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]-4000 (Greek/[illegible]/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Paragon Bar & Cafe 41 Tunnel Rd., Berkeley, 510-549-8585 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

BERKELEY WEST & EMERYVILLE

The House Project Cafe 1708 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-644-4575 (Bakery/American) $

The Bread Workshop 1398 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-9743 (Bakery/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] [illegible] St., Emeryville, 510-[illegible]-4128 (California Cuisine/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Cafe Fanny 1603 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-524-5447 (Coffeehouses/California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Cafe M 1199 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-526-4420 (Breakfast/Brunch) $$

Cafe Rouge 1782 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-525-1440 (California Cuisine/French/Organic/Sustainable/Coffeehouses/New American) $$-$$$

[illegible] 1320 65th St., Emeryville, 510-923-0[illegible] (Mexican) $$

Doyle Street Cafe 5515 Doyle St., Emeryville, 510-547-3552 (Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $

[illegible] 1401 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-5050 (Italian/Vegetarian/Vegan) $-$$

[illegible] 1600 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-524-1466 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

IKEA 4400 Shellmound St., Emeryville, 510-420-4532 (Scandinavian/Furniture & Home Furnishings) $

[illegible] Bar-B-Que 2613 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-6149 (Barbecue) $-$$

Picante 1328 Sixth St., Berkeley, 510-525-3121 (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable) $

Riva Cucina 800 Heinz Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-7482 (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

Spenger's Fresh Fish Grotto 1919 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-845-7771 (Seafood) $-$$

Townhouse Bar & Grill 5862 Doyle St., Emeryville, 510-652-6151 (California Cuisine) $$-$$$

Vik's 2390 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-644-4432 (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $

EL CERRITO, RICHMOND & NORTH

Hidden City Cafe 109 Park Pl., Richmond, 510-[illegible] (American/California Cuisine) $$

The Junket 235 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, 510-524-4622 (Deli/Caterers/Bakery/Coffeehouses) $

[illegible] [illegible] Potrero Ave., El Cerrito, 510-237-6979 (Steak House) $$-$$$

Plaza Garibaldi 251 23rd St., Richmond, 510-234-1952 (Mexican/Peruvian) $-$$

[illegible] 12345 San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-235-2268 (Central American/Mexican/Salvadorean) $

[illegible] 10350 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-526-0847 (Chinese/Seafood) $-$$

HAYWARD & SAN LEANDRO

Buffalo Bill's Brewery 1082 B St., Hayward, 510-886-9823 (American/Brewpub) $

Buon Appetito [illegible] B St., Hayward, 510-[illegible] (Italian) $$

Curry Corner [illegible] Mission Blvd., Hayward, 510-581-4903 (Indian/Pakistani) $

[illegible] [illegible] San Leandro Blvd., San Leandro, 510-835-7538 (American) $

[illegible] Korean Bar-B-Q Restaurant [illegible] Mission Blvd., Hayward, 510-886-7702 (Barbecue/Korean) $$

[illegible] [illegible] Mission Blvd., Hayward, 510-[illegible] (Korean) $$

Sweet Fingers Jamaican Restaurant 464 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-533-[illegible] (Caribbean) $$

Thai Satay [illegible] E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-[illegible]-2348 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

OAKLAND-DOWNTOWN & JACK LONDON SQ.

Bakesale Betty 2228 Broadway, Oakland, 510-251-2100 (Bakery/Coffeehouses) $-$$

[illegible] [illegible] Webster St., Oakland, 510-444-1233 (California Cuisine/Caribbean/Central American/Nuevo Latino/Tapas/Small Plates) $-$$

Breads of India 948 Clay St., Oakland, 510-834-7684 (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

[illegible] 301 8th St., Oakland, 510-835-3288 (Chinese/Seafood) $

[illegible] Cafe [illegible] Washington St., Oakland, 510-451-5400 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Organic/Sustainable/California Cuisine/Nuevo Latino) $-$$

[illegible] [illegible] 14th St., Oakland, 510-663-[illegible] (Bars & Clubs/Performance Venues/American/Burgers/Sandwiches/California Cuisine/New American/Southern/Soul Food/Southwestern) $$

[illegible] Oakland [illegible] Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-4208 (Mexican/South American) $-$$

[illegible] 701 Webster St., Oakland, 510-832-2688 (Chinese/Seafood) $-$$

[illegible] [illegible] 9th St., Oakland, 510-268-[illegible] (Chinese) $

[illegible] [illegible] San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-444-2626 (Caribbean/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Home of Chicken & Waffles 444 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510-836-4446 (American/Southern/Soul Food) $

[illegible] [illegible] 15th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Vietnamese) $

[illegible] [illegible] 15th St., Oakland, 510-463-2994 (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$

Lake Chalet 1520 Lakeside Dr., Oakland, 510-208-5253 (California Cuisine/American/Breakfast/Brunch/Burgers/Sandwiches/Brewpub/Seafood) $$-$$$

[illegible] [illegible] Broadway, Oakland (Caribbean) $-$$

[illegible] [illegible] 3rd St., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Southern/Soul Food) $$

[illegible] 1442 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-444-4466 ([illegible]) $

[illegible] [illegible] Embarcadero, Oakland, 510-836-2880 (Seafood) $$$

Picán 2295 Broadway, Oakland, 510-834-1000 (Southern/Soul Food/American/Barbecue/Cajun/Creole/California Cuisine/New American) $$-$$$

[illegible] 725 Webster St., Oakland, 510-835-8375 (Vietnamese) $

[illegible] [illegible] St., Oakland, 510-444-6429 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

San Francisco Soup Company 1500 Clay St., Oakland, 510-763-7687 (Breakfast/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] [illegible] 10th St., Oakland, 510-839-2298 (Chinese) $-$$

[illegible] [illegible], Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$

[illegible] [illegible] 9th St., Oakland, 510-268-8833 (Chinese) $

Tay Ho 344 12th St., Oakland, 510-836-6388 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

[illegible] [illegible] Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-268-5670 (Burgers/Sandwiches/American) $

OAKLAND EAST

[illegible] [illegible] International Blvd., Oakland, 510-261-8800 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

[illegible] Restaurant [illegible] International Blvd., Oakland, 510-444-2500 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

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FOOD & WINE

CULINARY & WINE

[illegible] Crop Swap First Saturday of every month, 10 a.m. Free. North Oakland Farmer's Market, Arlington [illegible] Center Parking Lot, Oakland.

FARMERS' MARKETS

Alameda Farmers' Market With locally grown fruits and vegetables, plus family activities. For info, visit PCFMA.com. Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Farmers St. (at Haight Ave.) & Webster St., Alameda.

Albany Farmers' Market A seasonal farmers' market between Solano and San Pablo Avenues. Free [illegible] from May through October. Happens every Saturday, 3-7 p.m. 510-548-3333. First Saturday of every month, 3-8 p.m. Continues through Oct. 30. 510-548-3333.

Bayfair Center Farmers' Market Fresh produce supplied by local organic and specialty farmers. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Bayfair Center, 15555 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-357-8800. ShopBayfair.com

[illegible] Market With organic [illegible] sustainable products, a food court, and performances by local [illegible]. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. Berkeley Adult School, 1632 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley.

Children's Hospital Farmers' Market WIC and WIC eligible. On the web at [illegible].org. Tuesdays, 2-6 p.m. Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland, 747 52nd St., Oakland.

Emeryville Farmers' Market With locally grown and produced fruit, vegetables, dairy products, flowers, wine, and more. Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Emeryville City Hall, 1333 Park Ave., Emeryville.

Farm Fresh Choice Community Farm Stand Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in culturally diverse, limited-resource neighborhoods. Wednesdays, 3-6:30 p.m. 510-848-1704. Ecology-Center.org. Frances Albrier Community Center, San Pablo Park, 2800 Park St., Berkeley. 510-981-5850. CI.berkeley.ca.us/recreation/francesalbrier.

Fruitvale Open Air Market With locally grown and produced fruit, vegetables, bread products, and more. Sundays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. 510-535-6900. Fruitvale Village, 3401 E. 12th St. (at Fruitvale BART), Oakland. 510-534-8000. UnityCouncil.org.

Grand Lake Farmers' Market Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. 415-472-6100. Splash Pad Park, Grand Ave. and Lakeshore, Oakland. 510-238-7275. OaklandNet.com/Parks/Rules/Default.asp

Hayward City Hall Farmers' Market A farmers' market in the heart of Hayward. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. www.agriculturalinstitute.org.

Kaiser Permanente Hayward Farmers Market With vendors selling locally grown California produce at the main entrance to the hospital. Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Kaiser Hayward, 27400 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward.

Kaiser Permanente Oakland Farmers' Market With vendors selling fresh, organic fruits and vegetables. Fridays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Kaiser Oakland, 3801 Howe St., Oakland.

Kensington Farmers' Market With a nursery, fresh flowers, an organic chocolatier, and products from wild fish, eggs and vegetables, nuts, butter, bread, [illegible] fresh pasta, and seasonal surprises. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. www.kensingtonfarmersmarket.org. Oakview Circle, at the Colusa Circle, Kensington.

Laurel Farmers' Market Sponsored and maintained by Oakland Food Connection. With certified organic produce from [illegible] Organic Farm and a youth-led prepared food booth called the Purple Lawn Cafe. For more info or to find out how to become involved, please contact [illegible] at oaklandfoodconnection.org or call 510-482-1436. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Laurel Farmers' Market, 4175 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.

Montclair Village Farmers' Market Featuring organic produce and prepared foods. Free parking in Village garage at the top of La Salle Avenue. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Downtown Montclair Village, LaSalle and Moraga Aves., Oakland.

North Berkeley Farmers' Market Breads, flowers, foods, all organic produce, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Thursdays, 3-7 p.m. Free admission. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.

Pacific Coast Jack London Square Farmers' Market Seasonal produce, greens, nuts, freshly baked bread, prepared food, flowers, specialty foods, [illegible], live music, and arts and crafts for kids. Sundays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Jack London Square, Off Broadway, Oakland.

Richmond Certified Farmers' Market Features seasonal produce, eggs, and more. Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Richmond Farmers' Market, 24th St. & Barrett Ave., Richmond.

Richmond Farmer's Market Fruits, locally grown fruit, flowers, eggs, and other goods. Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Richmond Farmers' Market, 24th St. & Barrett Ave., Richmond.

Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fruits and organic produce, breads, flowers, foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. MLK Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-981-8150. Ci.Berkeley.ca.us/[illegible]

Temescal Farmers' Market California certified farmers who sell [illegible] Oakland. Fresh fruits and nuts, fresh ranch eggs, baked goods, locally caught fish, fresh cut flowers, and more. Info: 510-745-7100. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. DMV Parking Lot, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.

Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m. Free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Derby St. (at Martin Luther King Jr. Way), Berkeley.

Green Papaya Deli 207 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-836-3337 (Cambodian/Laotian/Southeast Asian/Thai/Vietnamese) $

El Huarache Azteca 3842 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-533-2395 (Mexican) $

La Estrellita Cafe 446 E. 12th St., Oakland 510-465-7188 (Mexican/Sports bars) $$

[illegible] 3625 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-533-8506 (Seafood) $

New Pagolac 838 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-465-8836 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $-$$

[illegible] 3872 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-536-3801 (Mexican) $-$$

[illegible] 3062 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland, 510-482-3088 (Cambodian/Laotian/Southeast Asian) $

Taqueria [illegible] 5858 Foothill Blvd., Oakland, 510-261-4240 (Mexican) $

OAKLAND-PIEDMONT, GRAND LAKE & EAST

Boot and Shoe Service 3308 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-763-2668 (Pizza/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable)

Camino 3917 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-547-5035 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

César Latino 4039 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-985-1200 (South American/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

[illegible] Island 532 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-834-7796 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Dopo 4293 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-652-3676 (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

[illegible] India 6112 La Salle Ave., Suite 2, Oakland, 510-339-0033 (Indian/Pakistani)

[illegible] India 3870 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-338-8857 (Indian/Pakistani) $$

Grand Tavern 3601 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-444-4644 (American/Afghan/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/New American) $$$

[illegible] Ethiopian Restaurant 4301 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-420-1123 (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $

[illegible] 3421 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-893-0300 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

Z [illegible] Bar 2130 Broadway, Oakland, 510-663-7600 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/Bars & Clubs) $$

OAKLAND-ROCKRIDGE

[illegible] on College 5358 College Ave., Oakland, 510-285-4755 (Italian) $$$

[illegible] 2121 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-8891 (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$

[illegible] 6048 College Ave., Oakland, 510-653-3291 (Southeast Asian) $$

[illegible] 6389 Claremont Ave., Oakland, 510-595-0088 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $$

Market Cafe 5655 College Ave., Oakland, 510-548-5355 (Italian/Coffeehouses) $$$

[illegible] 6032 Shattuck Ave., Oakland, 510-420-1433 (Pizza/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

[illegible] 5422 College Ave., Oakland, 510-654-5600 (Italian/Pizza) $-$$

[illegible] 5415 College Ave., Oakland, 510-654-1753 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza 5801 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-6385 (Pizza) $-$$

OAKLAND-TEMESCAL

Bakesale Betty 5098 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-985-1213 (Bakery/Cafe/Sandwiches) $

Barlata 4901 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-450-0678 (Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $$

[illegible] Delicatessen and Ravioli 5095 Telegraph Ave., Building A, Oakland, 510-652-7401 (Deli/Italian) $

Homeroom 400 40th St., Oakland, 510-597-0400 (New American) $

Kang Tong [illegible] 3707 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-658-3888 (Korean) $$

[illegible] 4390 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-594-0001 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

The [illegible] Bowl 4920 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-533-6891 (California Cuisine/Coffeehouses) $$

[illegible] Cafe 5300 Shattuck Ave., Oakland, 510-595-5344 (Coffeehouses/Organic/Sustainable/Breakfast/Brunch/Performance Venues) $

[illegible] 4101 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-595-5358 (Korean) $-$$

Pyung Chang Tofu House 4701 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-658-9040 (Korean/Southeast Asian) $$

S&P Oakland 4823 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-654-8604 (Seafood/Southern/Soul Food) $

[illegible] 3801 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-597-9040 (Korean) $

PICK

Desserts and Astrology

It's the Age of Aquarius at **Cafe Aquarius** (1298 65th St., Emeryville) where the **Cafe Aquarius Astrology Center** launches on Wednesday, June 8. A bra[illegible] of cafe owner/astro-enthusiast **Pat Feehan** and Alameda astrologer **Renée Bornstein**, the center offers Reading Nights, Astrology Community Nights, classes, lectures, and more. The grand opening features mini-readings with astrologers, Tarot readers, handwriting analysis, and more — plus house-baked desserts, all for a single price. 7 p.m. $15, $25. 510-655-2782 or Meetup.com/Cafe-Aquarius-Astrology-Center *— Arnold Rigitur*

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MOVIES

FALLING LEAVES

Terence Malick pushes his luck in *The Tree of Life*

By Kelly Vance

The *Tree of Life* is Terrence Malick's most pretentiously "philosophical" film yet.

Terrence Malick didn't invent the long-form cinematic tone poem, but the quixotic filmmaker has produced so many memorable visions using that style that he might as well have patented it. His short but fabled filmography is replete with "stolen moments" in which, for instance, the camera gazes at a jackrabbit or catches the protagonist in an unnatural pose — little bits of visual business that ostensibly have little to do with the story at hand, yet tell us volumes about the characters and the world they inhabit.

The Tree of Life has an unusual amount of Malick's trademark oblique visual cues, so many that at times they threaten to swamp the slender narrative. The scenario could be boiled down to three sentences. The O'Briens, a middle-class family in 1950s Texas, have three sons who grow up chafing under the influence of their strict father, played by **Brad Pitt**, yet nurtured by their mother (**Jessica Chastain**). One son, Jack (**Sean Penn**), matures into a restless, dissatisfied businessman. And life goes on. That third plot point is the kicker, an open-ended invitation for the former philosophy professor to show his hand.

If you're only going to make five movies in 38 years, you'd better choose your stories carefully. Malick is universally admired and respected not only for his organically composed mise-en-scène but for his choice of material. His first feature, ***Badlands*** (1973), is loosely based on the real-life career of serial killer **Charles Starkweather**. ***Days of Heaven*** (1978), Malick's masterpiece, examines the era of America's Manifest Destiny through a love triangle among migrant farm workers. Only ***The Thin Red Line*** (1998) is a true literary adaptation, from **James Jones**' novel of World War II combat in the Pacific. The lushly poetic ***The New World*** (2005) takes off from the legendary romance of **John Smith** and **Pocahontas** in 17th-century Virginia. All four are period pieces with a vivid historical foreground populated by ordinary Americans in distress.

The Tree of Life fits the mold but allows itself plenty of room for deep-dish musings on the meaning of life, those dreamy subjective visual excursions that make every Malick film notable — but which also run the risk of gilding the lily. The filmmaker successfully skirted the pretentiousness danger zone in *The New World*, but the latest film's first and third movements — lengthy cutaways to planets exploding in distant galaxies, trees waving in the breeze, desert landscapes, jellyfish, bubbling volcanoes, etc., sandwiching a middle section devoted to the O'Briens' stressful small-town home life, overlaid with Malick-brand voiceover narration by one or more of the characters — may be twisting the philo knob a notch too far. Some of it works, some of it makes us wince. Allegories are slippery and difficult to manage, even for master filmmakers. If the director had released a new movie every two years instead of every seven or eight, we probably would have tired of these shenanigans long ago.

The Tree of Life

Written and directed by Terrence Malick. With Brad Pitt, Jessica Chastain, and Sean Penn. Opens Friday.

It's the strong middle third. Mr. and Mrs. O'Brien go about the task of raising their three sons and imparting life lessons. Dad, an industrial engineer, embodies the ethos of hard work, playing by the rules, and perseverance, but there's a lingering resentment in his tone. When he carefully points out to eldest son Jack (movingly played by **Hunter McCracken**) the family's property line — which Jack and his brothers must not cross — Dad can't resist muttering under his breath that the next-door neighbor inherited his money. None of that for him and his boys. Their lives are to be a product of their competitive "fierce will" and nothing else.

Dad reveres the European classical music of Brahms, J.S. Bach, Smetana, and Couperin. In fact his scratchy LPs seem to be the family's main cultural touchstone; there's no TV or radio (imagine the Fifties without Elvis Presley). Mom, the healing force, is all about forgiveness and fidelity while Dad is rigid and militaristic, intent on discipline. Jack's younger brother R.L. (**Laramie Eppler**), who inherited his mother's artistic bent, learns guitar and basks in her approval, leaving Jack to brood. Meanwhile, in a wonderfully impressionistic swirl of events and inflections, the boys awaken to the rhythms of small-town life. Their street looks familiar to us — it could well be the same neighborhood where Holly Sargis lived in *Badlands*, twirling her baton in the twilight, waiting for lonesome Kit Carruthers to steal her away.

As intoned in voiceover, two paths are available to the kids: the way of nature and the way of grace. Lessons abound. The boys recoil from the sight of a disabled man on the street. "Can it happen to anyone?" A family pet dies. Jack and his friends enact manhood rituals while just messing around. All by himself one afternoon, Jack breaks into a neighbor woman's house while she is out and steals her slip. The kids go swimming on hot summer days. The camera tags along joyously and dialogue is minimal. Nothing really happens except the shifting of the Earth and the playing out of individual destinies. Malick is at his best in these seemingly mundane moments, pausing occasionally to have us stare up into the trees the same way Pocahontas did, long ago. The childhood of Jack and his brothers makes most movies' depictions of youth seem stagey and artificial.

All the while, Malick has his eyes fixed on the stars, no more self-consciously than in his earlier films but certainly more intrusively. **Emmanuel Lubezki**'s cinematography is appropriately miraculous, as are the special visual effects by former Stanley Kubrick collaborator **Douglas Trumbull** — although the dinosaur scene looks as if it's in the wrong movie. There are other uncomfortable echoes, notably of Godfrey Reggio's *Qatsi* series of heavy-handed environmental spectacles. We get the feeling that Malick has somehow "gotten religion," and that's an odd feeling indeed.

To put it plainly, *The Tree of Life* is the most pretentiously "philosophical" film Malick has made. This might be the right time to revoke all those passes we've been issuing to him over the years. *Badlands* was a revelation, *Days of Heaven* was magnificent, *The Thin Red Line* uneven, *The New World* exasperating but beautiful. Malick can't help thinking "big." He strives for stream-of-consciousness effect and largely succeeds, but some streams are more worth rafting on than others. ■

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, note the abbreviations at the end of each listing, then consult the theater guide at the bottom of this page. Capsule reviews are written by Andrea Gronvall (A.G.), Cole Haddon (C.H.), J.R. Jones (J.J.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to calendar@eastbayexpress.com

Editor's Note: Due to the holiday weekend, listings may be inaccurate. We strongly suggest you call the theater ahead of time before leaving the house.

OPENING

[illegible] [illegible] can't tell the [illegible] without a scorecard, and this handy guide to the Lower Manhattan indie filmmaking boom in the Seventies and Eighties [illegible] a plethora of eyewitnesses. Listen to the legend of [illegible]. Discover the work of Amos Poe, [illegible], and the prolific Nick Zedd. Thrill to the [illegible] Debbie Harry and Fab 5 Freddy. And learn how Lydia Lunch became the Anna Magnani of Alphabet City. French filmmaker Céline [illegible] entertaining documentary with testimony by folks like Jim Jarmusch and Steve Buscemi, reminiscing about the days when New York still had cheap places for artists to [illegible]. (84 min.) (K.V.) [illegible]

ONGOING

13 Assassins The climactic 45-minute battle sequence is a bloody whopper, but there's more to Takashi Miike's remake of the 1963 samurai epic [illegible] [illegible] (K.V.) [illegible]

[illegible] the holy fool. Recommended. (K.V.) (CA)

African Cats Nature doc about — [illegible] Africa's [illegible] Directed by [illegible] and Keith Scholey and narrated by Samuel L. Jackson. [illegible]

The Beaver Walter Black has been a faulty husband and [illegible] [illegible] through the "voice" of the puppet. [illegible] and Gibson (as depressed Walter) and Jodie Foster (as his long-suffering wife) [illegible] [illegible] by [illegible]

Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com

Theater Guide

This guide explains the abbreviations at the end of each capsule. **AL** = Landmark Albany, **ATC** = Alameda Theatre & Cineplex, **BC** = [illegible], **BH** = Cinemark Blackhawk, **BP** = Brenden Pittsburg, **BS** = AMC Bay Street, **CA** = Landmark California, **CAPH** = [illegible], **CC** = [illegible], **CCC** = Contra Costa Cinemas, **CEPH** = Century Pleasant Hill, **CH** = Century Hilltop, **CHY** = Century Hayward, **CN** = Cinedome Newark, **CRC** = Regal Crow Canyon, **[illegible]** = [illegible], **CUC** = Century Union City, **CWC** = Century Walnut Creek, **DB** = [illegible], **GL** = Grand Lake, **JL** = Regal Jack London, **NB** = [illegible], **PFA** = Pacific Film Archive, **PM** = Landmark Piedmont, **RCC** = [illegible], **RH** = Regal Hacienda, **RT** = Rheem Theatre, **SL** = Landmark Shattuck, **UAB** = UA Berkeley, **UAEB** = UA Emery Bay, **V** = Vine, **WWS** = West Wind Solano

Thor

(*Lone Star*), Jennifer Lawrence costars. Directed by Foster. (91 min.) (K.V.) (RCL, LA(G)) V

Bill Cunningham New York The 80ish photographer invented the seen-on-the-street fashion photo essay with his *New York Times* column "On the Street," and this insightful documentary shows us Bill's world: from his bicycle-and-snapshot working style to his unstylish apartment at Carnegie Hall to the swank soirees of the likes of Anna Wintour and Tom Wolfe — among many talking heads who revere Cunningham's dogged pursuit of beauty. At age eighty, the Boston chronicler works more than most younger men, but we get the impression that's what he lives for. Exhilaratingly Directed and shot by Richard Press. (84 min.) (K.V.) (R)

Bridesmaids The brilliant *Saturday Night Live* player Kristen Wiig finally gets the big-screen vehicle she deserves. This raunchy comedy was produced by Judd Apatow (*The 40 Year-Old Virgin*, *Knocked Up*) and successfully transposes his "bromance" formula to the world of women: Wiig plays a depressed loser whose lifelong friendship with pal Maya Rudolph is threatened when the latter gets engaged and Wiig becomes the maid of honor. The gags are raunchy, yet they spring from a genuinely female perspective. Aside from a big scatological set piece inside a chic dress salon, the movie maintains a sophisticated rapport between the sentimentality of most rom-coms and the crudity of most dick flicks. Paul Feig, creator of the cult TV series *Freaks and Geeks*, directed, with Rose Byrne, Jon Hamm, and, in her last screen role, Jill Clayburgh. (125 min.) (2.2) BG BP CWC CB CEPH CH CUC EN, BR CCC GL S CPC RH R

Cave of Forgotten Dreams A hidden, untouched French cave lined with 35,000-year-old cave paintings of horses, lions, bears, panthers, reindeer, bulls and woolly mammoths is the ideal place for one of Werner Herzog's patented [illegible]. Herzog's documentary on the wondrous Cave of Chauvet-Pont d'Arc is a true dazzler in the dark. These are the oldest artworks in the world, made at a time when half of Western Europe was covered by an immense glacier. And yet the artists had the time and inspiration to paint images of Paleolithic life and have them among the stalactites — all of which move the filmmaker to fits of rapture, intensified by his use of 3-D. Directed and written by Herzog, from an article by Judith Thurman. (90 min.) (K.V.) (CWC S) (AC)

The Conspirator A Civil War drama. In 2011 director Robert Redford and the American Film Company fearlessly delve into the case of Mary Surratt (well played by Robin Wright), the Washington D.C. boardinghouse keeper accused of conspiring in the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, in 1865. The result is appropriately sober. Mrs. Surratt, a Confederate sympathizer and suspected confidante of the assassin John Wilkes Booth (Toby Kebbell), is also a Roman Catholic. And so when she faces an all-male military tribunal she should survive — a point not lost on the court-appointed attorney (James McAvoy, also good) who defends her. Their relationship, which should have been the film's emotional center, [illegible] out a bit. Meanwhile actors Kevin Kline, Danny Huston, Tom Wilkinson, and Colm Meaney stand for the rogues as the expedient government man whose chief objective is to hang the culprits as quickly as possible and restore order. Is it all an allegory for Guantanamo and the war on terror? Perhaps. But this old-fashioned history drama is fully capable of standing alone. Thoughtful screenplay by James D. Solomon, adapted from a story he wrote with Gregory Bernstein. (123 min.) (K.V.) (AMC) V

Dinosaurs Alive! From the Jurassic to the Cretaceous, dinosaurs are uncovered by paleontologists and portrayed in realistic CGI. CSC

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THE NEW YORK TIMES

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The Double Hour Well written romantic psychological thriller follows the [illegible] adventures of a [illegible] chambermaid (Ksenia Rappoport) who gets [illegible] up with an ex-cop (Filippo Timi) and a [illegible] art racket in the city of Turin. Director Giuseppe Capotondi might just [illegible] the right number of [illegible] on [illegible] the protagonist. The screenplay [illegible] by Alessandro Fabbri, Ludovica Rampoldi and Stefano Sardo [illegible] that keeps [illegible] involved when the going gets [illegible] (95 min.) (K V)PM, S

Everything Must Go [illegible] kicked out of his house by his [illegible] wife, with all his possessions strewn on his suburban front lawn, Will Ferrell has the playing field [illegible] in this adaptation of a Raymond Carver short story. So then why do we look at our watch every five minutes? It's a [illegible] that [illegible] would-be [illegible] Nick Halsey is going to come out of it a winner [illegible] with the friendly faces of Rebecca Hall, Christopher Jordan Wallace, Michael Peña, and Laura Dern around. [illegible] Dan Rush handles the material like the [illegible] it is, and Ferrell doesn't exert himself unduly. They [illegible] (96 min.) (K V)CAPH, PM, V

Fast Five Fifth installment of the street-racing franchise, with all the action going down against the backdrop of Rio this time. Directed by Justin Lin, written by Chris Morgan, and starring Paul Walker, Vin Diesel and Jordana Brewster. (130 min.) [illegible] CWC, CS, CEPH, [illegible] LMB

The First Grader Based-on-a-true-story tale of a Kenyan man who returns to elementary school at the age of 84, after decades as a Mau Mau freedom fighter. Directed by Justin Chadwick, written by Ann Peacock, and starring Oliver Litondo, Naomie Harris, and Tony Kgoroge. (103 min.) [illegible]

The Hangover Part II America's favorite drunken [illegible] travel to Thailand for [illegible] wedding and engage in every [illegible] except one [illegible] Three-way [illegible] the [illegible] Chow (Ken Jeong), [illegible] the [illegible] Director [illegible] the first one [illegible] of Ed Helms and Zach Galifianakis [illegible] Todd Phillips' direction of the screenplay he wrote with Craig Mazin and Scot Armstrong. What's that [illegible] (102 min.) [illegible] CWC, CS, CEPH, [illegible] CAPH [illegible]

Hanna Not the first [illegible] but [illegible] of the best. [illegible] (Saoirse Ronan) [illegible] performance) has been [illegible] European [illegible] (Eric Bana) to be the ultimate [illegible] and [illegible] Cate Blanchett [illegible] who [illegible] Joe Wright's [illegible] fairy tale [illegible] in the [illegible] of Finland, [illegible] desert, [illegible] children's [illegible] park in Berlin. Ronan [illegible] with nifty [illegible] playing by Tom Hollander and [illegible] Screenplay by Seth Lochhead and David Farr

13 Assassins.

from Lochhead's story. Imaginative [illegible] by Wright (The Soloist, Atonement, Pride and Prejudice) who only borrows what is strictly necessary from the [illegible] of Tom Tykwer. (111 min.) [illegible] UAEB

Hobo With a Shotgun All he really wanted was a lawn mower. Rutger Hauer, aging gracefully beneath the rags, stars as the title homeless avenger who cleans up an insanely, hilariously [illegible] town with the help of a streetwalker with a heart of gold (Molly Dunsworth). [illegible] and [illegible] Jason Eisener [illegible] came up with the concept as an entry in a "Grindhouse Trailer Contest," and [illegible] to [illegible] the [illegible] The overacting by Gregory Smith, Brian Downey and Nick Bateman fits in with everything else. A Canadian production shot on location in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. (86 min.) (K V)CA

I Am [illegible] documentary in which director Tom Shadyac asks [illegible] world leaders, [illegible] what they [illegible] the biggest problems facing the world today are and how to fix them. Featuring Desmond Tutu, Noam Chomsky and many others. (76 min.) [illegible]

Incendies Emotionally powerful, poetically [illegible] drama shows what happens when Jeanne and Simon [illegible] a grown pair of [illegible] Lubna Azabal, Mélissa Désormeaux-Poulin and Maxim Gaudette [illegible] Middle East country (a Lebanon that is [illegible]) via flashback, what happened to their mother Nawal (Lubna Azabal), a [illegible] performance during that country's [illegible] war in the 1970s. The [illegible] is the work of playwright Wajdi Mouawad, and [illegible] adapted by writer Denis Villeneuve and [illegible] art in [illegible] which we [illegible] and the [illegible] the air in the last [illegible] theater. [illegible] Costarring Rémy Girard and Abdelghafour [illegible] (130 min.) [illegible]

Jumping the Broom Romantic comedy [illegible] families from opposite social strata [illegible] together for a wedding. Directed by Salim Akil, written by Arlene Gibbs and Elizabeth Hunter, and starring Laz Alonso, Paula Patton, Loretta Devine and Megan Good. [illegible]

Kung Fu Panda 2 [illegible] is back in the [illegible] sequel to the 2008 [illegible] action-comedy. Also starring the voices of Angelina Jolie (Tigress), Jackie Chan (Monkey), and Seth Rogen (Mantis). [illegible] 3-D [illegible] CWC, CH, CEPH, CH, [illegible] PCC, UAE, WMB

Mia and the Migoo Animated film [illegible] gets [illegible] search for her father [illegible] by Jacques-Rémy Girerd, with voice work by Whoopi Goldberg, Matthew Modine, Wallace Shawn and James Woods. [illegible]

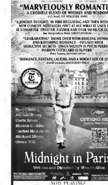
Midnight in Paris Owen Wilson's Woody Allen [illegible] up well with one of Allen's [illegible] scenarios in this [illegible] "old man's fantasy" [illegible] Hollywood screenwriter (Wilson) on vacation in the [illegible] city with his [illegible] (Rachel McAdams) and her [illegible] with magically [illegible] into a vision of 1920s "Lost Generation" Paris. [illegible] and [illegible] Paris. [illegible] and also takes care to decorate the [illegible] with [illegible] performances by Marion Cotillard [illegible] Kathy Bates (Gertrude Stein) and Adrien Brody [illegible] as Salvador Dalí (94 min.) [illegible] CAPH, [illegible] PM

Mysteries of Egypt National Geographic and a team of scientists reveal the architecture, legends, history [illegible] mysteries of ancient Egyptian civilization. CSC

Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides Fourth installment of the amusement park ride-turned-megafranchise, with Johnny Depp reprising his role as Captain Jack Sparrow, this time on a hunt for the fountain of youth. Directed by Rob Marshall, written by Ted Elliott and Terry Rossio, and starring Penélope Cruz and Geoffrey Rush. [illegible] CWC, CS, CEPH, CH, [illegible] CAPH, [illegible] PCC, UAE, WMB

POM Wonderful Presents: The Greatest Movie Ever Sold Morgan Spurlock [illegible] his body eating junk food in Super Size Me, so he might as well sell his soul—or at least his movie. In [illegible] funny documentary about how he peddled $1.5 million worth of "branding integration" (aka product placement) for his [illegible] of [illegible] We get Spurlock telling the [illegible] of [illegible] advertising (and the other kind too) on behalf of the companies who [illegible] the movie's production. It's simultaneously [illegible] and [illegible] and it's designed to make us [illegible] what [illegible] Among the talking heads are Noam Chomsky, Hollywood placement guru Norm Marshall, Quentin Tarantino and Ralph Nader, who [illegible] sponsor's [illegible] We might as well give up. They've already won. The film's title [illegible] to the lead sponsor, a maker of pomegranate juice products. Produced and [illegible] by Spurlock, who [illegible] (88 min.) (K V)UAEB, V

Priest Comfy [illegible] of a comedy [illegible]



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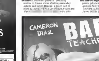

CAMERON DIAZ
BAD TEACHER
IN THEATERS JUNE 24

The First Grader

bereft the early days of women's liberation in 1970s France, alert and-to-be housewife Suzanne Pujol (Catherine Deneuve) is obliged to take control of the family umbrella factory when her tyrannical husband (Fabrice Luchini) has a heart attack over the company's labor troubles. Naturally Suzanne excels in the job, despite/because of the advances of her ex-lover Maurice Babin (an enormous Gérard Depardieu), now the town's communist mayor and chief labor agitator. Director François Ozon is clearly having fun with the affable farce — adapted by Ozon from a stage play by Pierre Barillet and Jean-Pierre Grédy — but it's the veteran actors who drive the central narrative: Luchini, and Depardieu, and Deneuve. Also with Jérémie Renier, Judith Godrèche, and Karin Viard. (103 min.) (KV) BRC

Priest The hero of this fantasy action flick is a Catholic priest (Paul Bettany) who slices down vampires, battles them with ninja moves, and rips them apart with martial arts (he's like a Jesuit, but less entertaining). Adapted from a Japanese graphic novel series, the story takes place in a futuristic, blue-gray metropolis—part Vatican City, part Blade Runner—whose inhabitants confess their sins to computer devices projecting an image of a papal Big Brother (who else but Christopher Plummer). From there the action shifts to a white-gray desert with Wild West overtones, about the renegade priest Sofronov for the bloodsucker who killed his sister and kidnapped his young niece. This is mildly entertaining for its steady onslaught of weirdness, but once the premise has been rolled out, the movie is about as surprising as the Stations of the Cross. Scott Stewart directed. (87 min.) (KL) BRC, EP, CL, CERR, CH, CUC, EM, R.

Rio Computer-animation family film about a naive Minnesotan macaw on a trip to Brazil, directed by Carlos Saldanha. Written by Saldanha, Don Rhymer, Joseph Stanley, and Jeffrey Ventimilia; starring the voices of Jesse Eisenberg, Anne Hathaway, and George Lopez. (96 min.) CMC, CR, CEPH, CH, CUC, RH, RCC, UAR

Solarmax The story of everyone's favorite flaming ball of gas. LSC

Something Borrowed A genial cast and moderately funny scenes coast over the sort of soppy boomerang romance that have become the going norm in Hollywood rom-coms. Adapted from the chick-lit best seller by Emily Giffin, the movie is about a staid Manhattan attorney (Ginnifer Goodwin) who stumbles into a passionate fling with the fiancé (Colin Egglesfield) of her alpha-female buddy (Kate Hudson). Keeping the liaison under wraps generates quite a few laughs, as do the purely ... of weekend getaways at the Hamptons, though Everwood (The Girl Next Door) drags out the deception so long that you may be checking your watch by the time he arrives to his unexpectedly bittersweet resolution. With John Krasinski. (110 min.) (LJ) CMC, CEPH, CUC, RH, UAR

Source Code Its sci-fi thriller scenario is salvaged by Jake Gyllenhaal's performance as a confused army officer who wakes up on a commuter train heading into Chicago. The main things Colter Stevens (Gyllenhaal) wants to know are: 1) Why did I suddenly have another identity? 2) Why am I being ordered to carry out by these guys on the TV screen in my head? and 3) Who is the woman seated across from me (Michelle Monaghan) and how do I get to know her better? To say any more about it would constitute an unforgivable plot spoiler, but let's just say that Capt. Stevens' military handlers, played by Vera Farmiga and Jeffrey Wright, don't necessarily have his best interests at heart, but then anyone who has seen a spy thriller in the past twenty years should already know that. The screenplay is by Ben Ripley, with direction by Duncan Jones (Moon). (93 min.) (KV) UAR

Thor Adapted from Marvel comics. Hammer-wielding Norse god (Chris Hemsworth) and his debut to New Mexico and he falls in love with Natalie Portman as she ... the red-eyed frosty skeleton guy who helped Thor's brother Loki (Tom Hiddleston) take over Asgard and put their father Odin (Anthony Hopkins), king of the gods, to death's door. But all that? Branagh's direction looks the same as that of any other summer ... things go about. It took eight writers, including Marvel chief Stan Lee, to defeat the screenplay. Also starring ... and Kat Dennings. (114 min.) (KV) EP, CMC, CL, CEPH, CH, CUC, EM, RH, UAR, WWS

To Be an Astronaut What is what a talent? Take a ... the inside ... of NASA for an IMAX-eye view of everything from training to lift-off. (40 min.) CSC

Tyler Perry's Madea's Big Happy Family The latest installment in Tyler Perry's Madea franchise ... the family matriarch as she attempts to gather her adult kids together for a family announcement. Written, directed and starring Perry; also with Loretta Devine and Bow Wow. (106 min.) CL, UAR

Water for Elephants A prosaic-era romantic drama about a circus animal keeper (Robert Pattinson) and his equestrian love interest (Reese Witherspoon). Directed by Francis Lawrence, adapted by Richard LaGravenese from the book of the same name by Sara Gruen. (LB) CMC, RH

Win Win Comedy-drama about a downtrodden New Jersey lawyer (Paul Giamatti) moonlighting as a high school wrestling coach. Written and directed by Thomas McCarthy. Also starring Amy Ryan and Alex Shaffer. CA

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Movie showtimes and online ticket buying at EastBayExpress.com

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PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN, STRANGER TIDES (PG13)
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MON-TUE-WED-THUR: 7:00 10:00

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THURSDAY, JUNE 2

The Importance of Being Earnest (143 min., 2011) Roundabout Theatre Company live (RCC, 7:00)

TUESDAY, JUNE 7

The Importance of Being Earnest (143 min., 2011) Roundabout Theatre Company live (RCC, 7:00)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8

Earth: The Ultimate Wars, Episode 1: Fightback (88 min., 2009) Preceded by potluck and social hour at 6:30 p.m., followed by discussion. (Humanist Hall, Oakland, 7:30)

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THE DOUBLE HOUR (NR)
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MUSIC

THE BAROQUE FOLK

How Foxtails Brigade turned chamber music into a pop form

By Rachel Swan

[illegible]

Both Patzner and Weinbach have rigorous backgrounds in music.

Laura Weinbach's first brush with fame happened at sixth grade graduation, where she performed the song "Hero" by **Mariah Carey**. It was a phenomenal experience, says the high-voiced brunette, who is now known for guitar-and-string compositions that most closely resemble song cycles of the Victorian era. In fact, she still has video documentation of her first public attempt at R&B. "I just reached into my inner soul — you know, that *Mariah Carey* lurking within," Weinbach said, a little snidely. She chewed on the thought for a moment. "It was kind of an *American Idol* experience."

So R&B wasn't exactly Weinbach's calling, even though she apparently had the vocal range for it. She grew up playing classical piano at the behest of her mother — who was a child prodigy — and learning the American Songbook to please her father, who was a record collector and jazz zealot. Weinbach taught herself to play guitar at age seventeen, completed a minor in music at UC Santa Cruz, and eventually formed the band **Foxtails Brigade**, which she co-fronts with Oakland-born violinist **Anton Patzner** (of **Bright Eyes** and **Judgement Day** fame). Since the release of its new album in April, the band has steadily gained renown in the Bay Area. More importantly, Patzner and Weinbach found a way to take what's arguably a chamber music form and make it palatable for nightclub audiences.

The Bread and the Bait is full of short, lean lyrical songs that are based on poems. The guitar is light and bubbly, made to sound like a harp. The violin — played not by Patzner but by Weinbach's former collaborator **Sivan Sadeh** — is warm and vibrato-rich. Weinbach's voice betrays a few of her influences, like the girlish jazz singer **Blossom Dearie**, except that it's inflected with small traces of sarcasm. The language is modern, the imagery is 19th century, and the structure lacks traditional choruses and verses. Instead, Weinbach compels listeners to treat each song as its own self-contained story. In some ways, her oeuvre is rather demanding.

That might betray her level of scholarship. Or the fact that Weinbach views music not only as an artistic discipline but as a form of discipline. Her official biography includes anecdotes about how her jazz-lover father — who was also a filmmaker — forced Weinbach to memorize and perform his favorite standards as a way to punish her misdeeds. "He really forced me on us," Weinbach recalled, remembering how she and her older brother, the comedian **Brent Weinbach**, both had to study piano as kids. "He actually somewhat tortured us with it. He would bang on these hideous conga drums that he had on weeknights when we had school the next day — and he had no sense of rhythm on the ones and twos."

Patzner has a similarly rigorous background. He studied piano at the **Crowden School** in Berkeley, starting in kindergarten. At age eight, he switched to violin and played classical music up until high school, when he took up guitar and insisted on being in rock bands exclusively. Those interests coalesced into the "chamber metal" band *Judgement Day*, which he fronts with his brother Lewis, who plays cello. They started out as street buskers and eventually landed on rock festival bills. Like Weinbach, Patzner also attended UC Santa Cruz, although the two didn't know each other back then (he's also a few years older). He dropped out eventually, not wanting to join the UCSC Orchestra, which, he said, was pretty much mandatory for music majors.

It turned out that Patzner and Weinbach were a perfect fit for each other — both smart, quirky, and well-studied but defiant. As a pair they look like Alice and the Mad Hatter. Weinbach is beanpole thin and has the features of a Madame Alexander doll. Patzner is tall and rangy, with a ponytail that vaguely resembles a powdered wig. They met via producer **David Reep** at the label **Third Culture**, which put out Foxtails Brigade's first seven inch, as well as the original version of *The Bread and the Bait*, which Weinbach later sublicensed to **Antenna Farm Records**. When Sadeh left the band to raise a family, Patzner seemed like an apt replacement. They perform both as a duo and as half of a quartet, with **Joe Lewis** on bass and **Josh Pollock** on drums. Local violinist **Dina Maccabee** occasionally subs for Pollock. She appeared with Foxtails at **South by Southwest**, playing a cookie sheet and a suitcase, which somehow fit the band's sparse orchestration.

Patzner says he'd characterize Foxtails Brigade as "baroque pop," a slight alteration from the "baroque folk" label they've grudgingly accepted from fans. "I don't question 'baroque' at all," he said, "but I do question 'folk,' which is supposed to be so simple that it can be passed down for generations." Patzner argues to the contrary that Foxtails material would be a frustratingly complicated thing to learn by rote. One might surmise that the presence of strings and a particularly stringy guitar sound is the only reason that people associate it with folk music. That, and perhaps the high, twangy quality of Weinbach's voice, or the vaguely Appalachian tint to some of the harmonies.

Weinbach concurs. Aside from having a rather nuanced compositional structure, her songs aren't that easy to grasp thematically. Some are based on fairy tales, with language filched from her favorite, canonical authors — **Oscar Wilde**, **Virginia Woolf**, **Hans Christian Andersen**. Others, like the title track, were inspired by her experiences as a substitute teacher. She did it for three years after college, before launching into music full-time. "I would sub for this ninth grade science class at **Oakland Military Academy**," Weinbach recalled. "We had to watch these movies about bugs, termites, and ants. The narration on those bug documentaries, they're really poetically written. I just took some of that stuff."

In fact, you can hear the source material directly referenced in Weinbach's tune "Chat with Satan": *Clean Communist killer bees thrive on kinder tears/Ants and termites enemies for ten thousand years.* "It's actually about death," she said. The title track is about Weinbach's first experience of — and subsequent disillusion with — Catholic mass, which happened at "a sweet little [religious] school" in San Francisco.

Such themes are far removed from the cloying pieties of Mariah Carey. But it turns out that Weinbach never quite quashed her inner diva — or for that matter, her soul. A year and a half ago she went to Walt Disney World with her brother and cousins, and saw that the theme park was holding an *American Idol* audition. The winner got to perform for a live studio audience, and possibly even advance to a real *Idol* jury panel. She and Brent decided to try it. They lined up alongside the other pop hopefuls — a gaggle of gay guys with identical wedding bands and a couple middle-aged women. Brent sang "Part of Your World" from *The Little Mermaid*, which didn't go over so well. "He tried to do it sincerely," Weinbach recalled, "but when he got to the part about being *the girl who has everything*, it didn't work — for some reason, he was still offended."

She sang "Colors of the Wind," a pseudo-politically correct love song from the Disney movie *Pocahontas*. It killed. "I got past the audition level and wound up performing it on a huge stage for a thousand people," Weinbach said proudly. But she ultimately got beaten out by a fiftysomething country singer.

"They said I was a little too 'Von Trapp child,'" Weinbach recalled. "Not quite the pop icon they were looking for." For now, her *Idol* dreams are over. She's decided to stick with baroque. ●

Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com

Show Details
Foxtails Brigade plays The Independent (628 Divisadero St., San Francisco) on Saturday, June 4. 9 p.m. $13-$15. APEConcerts.com

GLO-FI IN NEON

Neon Indian brings a microtrend to Oakland

By Rachel Swan

[illegible]

Alan Palomo is more a pastiche artist than a bona fide rock musician

The son of a hunky Mexican pop singer, 22-year-old **Alan Palomo** has star power built into his genetic wiring. He's rail thin, with a mop of black curly hair and big, deer-in-the-headlights brown eyes. He moves around as though all his limbs are connected by rubber bands. And Palomo's singing voice — inherited from his father, **Jorge Palomo** — is an inviting, grainy alto that's several registers deeper than his speaking voice.

A few years ago Palomo released electronic albums under two different monikers — **Ghosthustler** and **VEGA**. The genesis of his current act, **Neon Indian**, really came with last year's *Psychic Chasms*, which comprised twelve tracks of blurry, slurry synth-pop, all set to upbeat drumbeats. It referenced the Eighties more in a reverential way than a mimetic way, and Palomo's peers approved. They packed **The New Parish** club last Sunday, when Neon Indian made its Oakland debut. To anyone who had actually experienced the era of jean jackets and new wave music, it was an oddly disorienting experience. It's hard to look at so many ill-fitting flannels and front-less pairs of mom jeans without wanting to yell, "Hey, guys, the year 1987 called. It wants its fashion back."

Still, you gotta hand it to Palomo for helping popularize a flashback movement — even if he wasn't the original trendsetter. He took the stage around 10:30 p.m., after dream-pop opener **Asobi Seksu**. His current band includes "string" player **Danny Barria**, who alternates between guitar and bass; **Leanne Macomber**, who plays tambourine and a whole rack of keyboards (synths and a sequential circuits six track); and drummer **Jason Fairies**, whose long hair hangs in front of his face like a drawn curtain. From the audience's vantage point, their rig looks incredibly complicated: multiple microphones, synthesizers, sound boards, things with knobs, wires crisscrossing the stage, unidentifiable gadgetry that draws attention to the synthetic nature of the music. But once Palomo emerged in a leather jacket and side-parted hair, the audience gave him an ovation worthy of **Bob Dylan** or **Buddy Holly**.

Grinning, he queued up the first loop as Macomber grabbed her tambourine. Women cheered. Red and blue lights beamed from the ceiling, creating the illusion of a junior prom disco ball. Palomo thrust the microphone to his chest, as though he were ravishing a delicate young woman. Perhaps he's not a rock star in the old-fashioned sense of the word, but he makes a pretty good simulacrum.

For all the technical detail in Neon Indian's production methods, the music is pretty accessible. Many of the songs he played that night, including "Terminally Chill," sound so jaunty and poppy, they could have easily been theme music for Eighties TV sitcoms (especially *Perfect Strangers*). Yet kids who didn't grow up with Top 40 synth-pop probably won't object to such characteristics. Neon Indian fits easily into several new "microtrends" — namely "chillwave" and "glo-fi" — whose names bespeak their sonic pleasures. The songs hark back to a particular period of the 1980s, which itself was influenced by a particular period of the 1970s. They're endlessly referential, likeably repetitive, fuzzily addictive, and always driven by solid, blocky drum beats.

In many ways, Palomo is more a pastiche artist than a bona fide rock musician — which makes him the consummate glo-fi singer. He's handsome in a retro way but seems to have no knowledge of it. He sings with enough distortion to render his lyrics incomprehensible. He doesn't talk between songs, other than to praise his audience — in the tone of someone trying to win friends, rather than act magnanimous. "This is our first time playing in Oakland," he said, smiling flirtatiously as the audience applauded. "Tomorrow we're about to inhale San Francisco." He made a theatrical arm gesture on the word "inhale" and giggled.

Everything about Palomo is characteristic of glo-fi, from his good looks to his diffidence, his diffused vocals, his fascination with synthesizers, and his geeky apparel (beneath the leather jacket he wore a long-sleeve shirt, buttoned to the neck and tucked into his pants). Critics have wondered if this genre is just a flash in the pan (or a "blip," as one *New York Times* headline cleverly put it). Yes, it's aesthetically pleasing, but how long can a style last when it's so shallow and repetitive?

Indeed, the songs of Neon Indian blurred together on stage the same way they do on record. Audience members rocked along with the drum beats, often searching for a melody to latch onto. Only when the band played its hit song, "Deadbeat Summer," did everyone chime in on the chorus: *Deadbeat summer. It's just a deadbeat summer.* Macomber banged her tambourine and urged us to keep going. Palomo hooded his eyes and quaked ecstatically with the drum beats. In the limelight he looked like a younger, more handsome version of the Eighties TV star **Scott Baio**.

Which suggests that Palomo may ultimately outgrow — and outlive — the glo-fi genre. Surely he still has a pop career lying ahead. ●

Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com

Show Details

Neon Indian plays the Rickshaw Stop (155 Fell St., San Francisco) on Wednesday, June 1, 7:30 p.m., $20. RickshawStop.com

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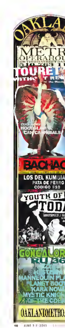


A LEADERLESS MOVEMENT

Empathetic jazz, South London hip-hop and bittersweet bluegrass.

James Farm

James Farm

Jazz "supergroups" tend to have more staying power than their rock counterparts, perhaps because jazz is a more "cooperative" affair. Case in point: James Farm, a foursome of young jazz musicians who played on several of each others' albums and eventually came together as a unit. Perhaps they're just from a generation of jazz musicians that's unencumbered by elitist snobbery, or they're used to performing empathetically rather than coalescing around a leader.

In fact, each member is a leader in his own right: **Joshua Redman**, tenor and soprano saxophones; **Aaron Parks**, keyboards; **Matt Penman**, acoustic bass; and **Eric Harland**, drums. (All except Parks have been affiliated with the **SFJazz Collective**.) All contributed compositions to the group's debut, whose ten tracks range from four to nine minutes in length, so there's no noodling and doodling. Redman's "Star Crossed" begins as a pensive, wistful ballad, then changes gears halfway through: Redman goes from bluesy melancholy to a driving, wailing, old-school R&B-flavored groove, Parks' piano is sublimely lyrical and Harland's drums crack like firecrackers. "I-10" would be a brisk slice of swinging hard bop but for the drum 'n' bass-like rhythms way down below Parks' spiky free flurries, and a section where Redman's sax sounds as though it's channeled through a transatlantic phone line. The more traditional minded will be on cloud nine with the churning bop of "If By Air": Redman's muscular sax careening joyously à la **Wayne Shorter**'s 1960s **Blue Note** recordings. *James Farm* is that rare work where creativity and user-friendliness are intertwined — highly recommended, and not only to jazz-heads. (Nonesuch)

— *Mark Keresman*

Tinie Tempah

Disc-Overy

Seldom do cockney accents sound as good as they do on the recorded products of 22-year-old South London rapper **Tinie Tempah**. It's particularly charming when he's rhyming the word "pumpin'" with "wrinkle," or pronouncing "better" as "beh-uh." That said, there aren't enough quaint British sayings on Tempah's Capitol Records debut, which is a slightly altered version of the album that dropped in the UK back in October. (Hot bonus: **Wiz Khalifa** and R&B singer **Bei Maejor** both appear on the US iteration.) Accent notwithstanding, it tries to be fast, non-geographical and dishearteningly un-English — if only to garner a wider audience abroad. Tempah runs the gamut of familiar hip-hop clichés — from male preening (he boasts about his congenitally flawless skin in "Simply Unstoppable") to material wealth to philandering. What stands out about *Disc-Overy* isn't the verbal content but the musicianship in Tempah's beats.

He has a whole stable of elite producers to thank, among them **Labrinth**, **Swedish House Mafia**, **Al Shux**, and **iSHi** (who helped conceive the rapper's biggest hit "Written in the Stars"). Collectively, they've done away with the bedrock beat of hip-hop and opted for a more electronica-oriented sound. Thus "Unstoppable" is a patchwork of blips and low, rumbly whooshing sounds; "Frisky" is driven by synthesizers, and all but denuded of the traditional snare and high hat. "*So Addicted*" is a warm, gelatinous dance ballad. The level of detail in each track makes *Disc-Overy* consistently interesting. Lyrically, it's a wordplay album with common man appeal. Musically, it's art. (Capitol Records)

— *Rachel Swan*

Sarah Jarosz

Follow Me Down

Barely twenty years old, Texas-born **Sarah Jarosz** has such a good handle on this Americana thing, she sounds better than some folks twice her age. While she is rooted in bluegrass and its Appalachian origins, Jarosz is no traditionalist. Her style shows that she's absorbed the sleek modern approaches of **Nickel Creek** and **Alison Krauss**, the pop-flavored, confessional neo-folk of **Shawn Colvin**, and the jazzgrass (jazz and bluegrass) of **David Grisman** and **Mike Marshall**. Jarosz is also a fine songwriter and multi-instrumentalist (mandolin, banjo, guitar, piano).

Jarosz sings in a dusky alto that mixes and balances the bitter and the sweet, feeling hopeful and forlorn. This disc begins with "Run Away," which combines the wistfulness and detail of *Blue*-era **Joni Mitchell** and the haunted, brooding aspects of **Leonard Cohen** and **Tom Waits**. She adapts the Edgar Allan Poe poem "Annabelle Lee" and makes it sound as if it came from the trad-song catalog of **Doc Watson** or **Mike Seeger**. Listen to her achingly beautiful version of **Radiohead**'s "*Slow Down*" and not only will you believe there's such a thing as psychedelic bluegrass, but the gauzy, heartrending harmonies will stick with you like the first truly cold day of winter. Of her originals, the moody yet mysterious-sounding "Old Smitty" romps in a zone where Celtic folk, jazz, and hill country string bands get their collective groove on. Her accompanists include such aces as **Chris Thile**, **Alison Krauss**, and **Béla Fleck**, but don't get *Follow Me Down* just for the "guest stars" — it's a varied, vibrant, mature slab of acoustica. (Sugar Hill)

— *Mark Keresman*

At Slim's (333 11th St., San Francisco) on Tuesday, June 7, 8 p.m., $14. Slims-SF.com

LOCAL LICKS

BY [illegible]

Jaswho?

Re: Dead Musik

Oakland producer **Jaswho?** is one of the most prolific "deep house" artists in the East Bay; he just graced this column in October for a previous iteration of his *Musik* series. And here's the remix. Actually, this new disc only features a handful of tracks from *Nudead*, opting to do a "close-read" approach rather than tackle the whole thing at once. Cool idea, but it's less dynamic than the original. (Temple Music Group)

Mark Levine Nonet

@ The Reunion

The late **Woody Herman Shaw Jr.** enjoyed a brief Bay Area sojourn in the mid 1970s, during which time he played every Monday night at San Francisco club **The Reunion**, accompanied by a nine-piece ensemble. Pianist **Mark Levine** led the **Nonet** band, which also featured Latin trombonist **Wayne Wallace**. This grainy live recording captures one set from that period, complete with a fiery version of "Giant Steps." (Jazzschool Records)

Y.D.C.

Stuntaholics Vol. 1

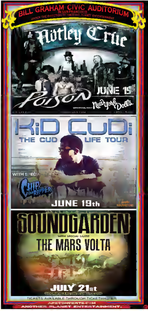
Lest you doubt the veracity of the "ADD generation" label, look no further than Oakland rap duo Y.D.C. (acronym for "Youngins Outta Control"). Their fast-paced raps run the gamut of adolescent rap themes (sex, avarice, *gamesmanship*, recreational drug use) but seem to honestly articulate the rappers' inner-most desires. Emcees **DoSeent** and **D-Tae** are apparently still in high school, which may explain the high-pitched, croaky quality of their voices. For teenagers, they've covered a lot of ground, and some of it is nothing to boast about. (B2Z Entertainment)

Sunspot Jonz

Galaxy of Dreams

Stalwart underground rapper **Sunspot Jonz** has entered a period of youthful regression. His old flows emphasized narrative; his new material is more abstract and free associative. In the title track, Jonz raps a series of rhymed couplets that veer from sex to braggadocio. He also refers to himself as a self-contained solar system. Hubris? Yes. But also inspiring. (Worldwide Mass Media/Revenge Entertainment) ●

Bay Area bands: show us what you've got. Send CDs to Local Licks c/o the *East Bay Express*.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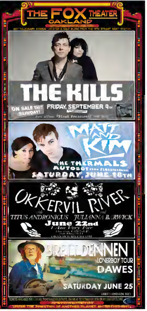
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CONCERTS & CLUBS

THURSDAY 2

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Mama Buzz Cafe, 7 p.m. [illegible]

[illegible] solo guitar, Casa Vino, 8 p.m. Free

[illegible] Earth Again Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, June 2-3, 8 p.m. $20.50-$22.50

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Yoshi's, 8 p.m. $20

[illegible] Luka's Taproom, 9 p.m. Free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] [illegible] 5 p.m. Free

[illegible] North Oakland community [illegible], 8 p.m. $10

[illegible] with The Melatones, Slow Moving, Lions of The Vegetable World, and Scott Alexander, Stork Club, 9 p.m. $5

[illegible] Pat's Irish Sports Bar, 9 p.m. Free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] Ashkenaz, 8 p.m. $10-$12

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] with [illegible] Cafe Du Nord, 7:30 p.m. $10-$12

[illegible] The Independent, 8 p.m. $20

[illegible] June 2-3, 8 p.m. $41.50

[illegible] 8 p.m. $10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] w/ guests, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m. Free

[illegible] The Trio Project with Special Guests Yoshi's San Francisco, June 2-4, 8 & 10 p.m. $30-$38, $5 children's matinee on Sunday

[illegible] 8:30 p.m. $10

[illegible] Le Colonial, 7:30 p.m. Free

[illegible] San Francisco-based blues performs live jazz and blues, Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 p.m. $10

Rock & Pop

[illegible] with [illegible] and The [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 8:30 p.m. $12

[illegible] with [illegible] [illegible] 8 p.m. $7

[illegible] Amoeba Music, 6 p.m. Free

[illegible] with [illegible], Mezzanine, 8:30 p.m. $10

[illegible] with [illegible] Cafe [illegible], 9 p.m. $10

[illegible] with [illegible], and DJ [illegible]

[illegible] Bottom of the Hill, 8 p.m., $13

[illegible] Bird Lounge, 9 p.m. $15

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] Mojito, 9:30 p.m. Free

[illegible] traditional music & dancing with [illegible] & Stephanie [illegible], 8 p.m. $12

FRIDAY 3

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] for the [illegible] with Marley's Ghost, Laurie Lewis & The Right Hands, The Kathy Kallick Band, The [illegible] with Al Lee, [illegible] and The Farm Band, [illegible] Historic [illegible], June 3-4, 11 a.m. $30

First Friday Follies burlesque night w/ MC [illegible], Stork Club, 9 p.m. Free

[illegible] & The [illegible] High Street Station, 7:30 p.m. $5-$10

[illegible] Earth Again Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. $27.50-$32.50

[illegible] dance lesson with [illegible] 8 p.m. $15

Experimental & Avant Garde

[illegible] Performance art with [illegible] in [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] and [illegible], Subterranean Arthouse, June 3-4, 8 p.m. $10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Quartet and [illegible] [illegible] Social Club, 11 p.m. $5

[illegible] [illegible] Social Club, 8:30 p.m. $5

First Friday Follies with [illegible] light and music by [illegible], Stork Club, 9 p.m., Free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] with [illegible], [illegible] and [illegible], The Uptown, 9 p.m. Free

[illegible] [illegible] 8 p.m.

[illegible] with [illegible], [illegible] and [illegible], $24 [illegible] 9 p.m. $8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] [illegible] Music & DVDs, 8:30 p.m. Free

[illegible] Yoshi's, 8 p.m. $20

DJ [illegible] [illegible], 9 p.m. Free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] [illegible] 8 p.m. $18-$20

[illegible] with [illegible] Album with [illegible] at 8 p.m., Ashkenaz, 8 p.m. $15-$13

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] [illegible] 8 p.m. midnight. Free

[illegible] [illegible] 8 p.m. $47.50

[illegible] [illegible] 8 p.m. $7

[illegible] with [illegible] and [illegible], Cafe du Nord, 8:30 p.m. $10-$12

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] [illegible], 10:15 p.m. $20

[illegible] Jazz Ensemble Top of the Mark, 8 p.m. $10

[illegible] Ensemble [illegible] Records, 5:30-6 p.m. Free

[illegible] w/ guests, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m. Free

[illegible] The Trio Project with Special Guests Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 p.m. $30-$38, $5 children's matinee on Sunday

Rock & Pop

The Album Leaf with [illegible] and [illegible], The Independent, 8 p.m. $15

[illegible] Amoeba Music, 6 p.m. Free

[illegible] with [illegible], [illegible] 8 p.m. $10

[illegible] (Steven [illegible]) [illegible] Great American Music Hall, 9 p.m. $20

[illegible] with [illegible] and [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 9:30 p.m. $12-$14

The [illegible] (7" release) with [illegible] and [illegible] (Portland), [illegible], 9 p.m. $8

[illegible] The Ultimate [illegible] to Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers with [illegible], Bird Lounge, 9 p.m. $12

[illegible] Presents [illegible] with [illegible], [illegible] and DJ [illegible], 9 p.m. $10

[illegible] with Death Valley High, [illegible] and The Tunnel, [illegible] 9 p.m. $8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Earth, [illegible] & Fire [illegible] Anniversary Tour [illegible] Civic Auditorium, 8 p.m. $49.50, $79.50, $99.50

[illegible] & The [illegible] with [illegible] featuring Kevin [illegible], [illegible] Music Hall, 8:30 p.m. $8, $10

The [illegible] Brothers [illegible] Room, June 3-4, 9:30 p.m. $12-$15

SATURDAY 4

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Ariel, [illegible], and [illegible] High Street Station, 6:30 p.m. $5-$10

[illegible] for the [illegible] with Marley's Ghost, Laurie Lewis & The Right Hands, The Kathy Kallick Band, The [illegible] with Al Lee, [illegible] and The Farm Band, [illegible] Historic [illegible], 11 a.m. $30

[illegible] featuring [illegible] [illegible], Cafe Van Kleef, 9 p.m. $10

East Bay Honky Tonk [illegible] [illegible] country [illegible] 8 p.m. Free

[illegible] Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $22.50-$24.50

Experimental & Avant Garde

Big Fat Ocean Performance art with Artists-in-Residence [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible], Subterranean Arthouse, 8 p.m. $10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] [illegible] Social Club, 11 p.m. $5

The [illegible] of Jazz, Soul, & Comedy with [illegible], 8 p.m. $18-$25 [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Cultural Center, 8 p.m. $12, $11

Jazz & Joy [illegible] 8:30 p.m. Free

Joey DeFrancesco Trio Yoshi's, 8 & 10 p.m. $20, $5 for kids, $10 for adults

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Tribute to JOHN COLTRANE
[illegible]
MARCUS SHELBY ALL STARS
[illegible]

Tues. June 7
ANCIENT FUTURE
[illegible]

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The Legendary SKATALITES
[illegible]

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MONTE CARLO NIGHT
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FOUR ON THE FLOOR
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MICHAEL FORMANEK
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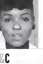
PICKS

Sloan

Bruno Mars and Janelle Monae

Bruno Mars, whose real name is **Peter Gene Hernandez**, launched his singing career as an **Elvis Presley** impersonator, and he retained the haircut ... if not the baritone. (Mars sings in a swoony falsetto register.) In many ways, he's a perfect foil for futuristic pop singer **Janelle Monae**, whose perfectly coiffed hair — like that of Mars — adds several inches to her silhouette. That said, Monae easily one-ups Mars in terms of musicianship. Her concept-driven *Metropolis* EP was a huge critical success, even if it foundered commercially. Equally mesmerizing are her interpretations of old standards like the **Charlie Chaplin** ballad "Smile," which she renders with elegance and grace. The Mars-Monae combination makes for an enticing double bill, and that's not to mention the supporting act, **Stones Throw** crooner **Mayer Hawthorne**. Tres fantastique. At **Bill Graham Civic Auditorium** (99 Grove St., San Francisco) Wednesday, June 8 at 7:30 p.m. $37.50. APEConcerts.com. — *Rachel Swan*


Monae

Sloan

Twenty successful years as a band is quite a coup. **Sloan** is celebrating its twentieth anniversary with an aptly titled album called *The Double Cross*, the tenth in its discography. Emerging from the early-1990s alongside labelmates **Nirvana**, **Teenage Fanclub**, and **Sonic Youth**, the quartet of singer-songwriters has influenced a number of countrymen, including members of Feist, **Broken Social Scene**, rapper **K-os**, and **Damian Abraham** of hardcore punk outfit **Fucked Up**. With the new album, Sloan continues to dish out power-pop gems, hard rocking swagger, and clever lyricism. Nova Scotia's greatest musical export brings a show overflowing with righteous riffage on Tuesday, June 7, at **Cafe du Nord** (2170 Market St., San Francisco). 9:30 p.m., $15. CafeduNord.com — *Dave Gil de Rubio*

Robin Flower and Libby McLaren

Robin Flower and **Libby McLaren** celebrate their 29th year of delivering a special brand of Celtic-flavored Americana at one of their favorite venues. Stunning harmonies enhance their vocal work, while their jigs and reels are marked by instrumental expertise. They'll be sure to play plenty of music off of their latest album, *Twenty Years Twenty Rivers*, with the help of a fine backing band that includes multi-instrumentalist **Danny Carnahan** on fiddle, bouzouki, guitar, and backing vocals, **Jim Martinelli** on bass and percussionist **Peter Maund**. At **Freight & Salvage** (2020 Addison St., Berkeley) on Saturday, June 4. 8 p.m., $22.50-$24.50. FreightandSalvage.com — *J. Poet*

Chanticleer

While Brunnhilde's self-immolating at **San Francisco Opera**'s production of Wagner's *Götterdämmerung*, the dozen boys of **Chanticleer** find themselves in a life-affirming romantic mood. Singing poetry by Friedrich Rückert, Alexander Pushkin, Joseph von Eichendorff, Keats, Octavio Paz, and Tu Fu, the male vocal ensemble that may very well be America's best sings music by **Daniel-Lesur**, **Gustav Mahler**, **Richard Strauss**, **Stephen Paulus** (a Chanticleer commission) and **Vissarion Shebalin**. If some of these names are new to you, by all means head to **First Congregational Church** (2345 Channing Way, Berkeley) on Saturday, June 4, 8 p.m., $20-$44. 415-392-4400 or Chanticleer.org — *Jason Victor Serinus*

C&C

[illegible] at the Sunday matinee

Larry Smith [illegible], 8 p.m., $11

Little Brown [illegible] [illegible] Social Club, 8:30 p.m., $5

Kids

Los Amiguitos de La Peña Saturday morning children's show w/ live music, La Peña Cultural Center, 10:30 a.m. $6, kids $4

Rock & Pop

The Tickles with [illegible], The Uptown, 9 p.m., $12

Fishbone with [illegible] Heart Touch, [illegible] The New Parish, 8:30 p.m., $25-$28

[illegible] with [illegible] 8 p.m., $5

[illegible] [illegible] 9 p.m., free

[illegible] with [illegible], The Indigo Girls, [illegible], The Psychedelic Furs, [illegible] and many more. [illegible]

[illegible] with Will to Provoke and special guests, Stork Club, 8 p.m., $5

Soul, Rock R&B & Hip-Hop

DJ [illegible] [illegible], 8 p.m., free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] & West African Highlife Band African dance lesson with [illegible] 9 p.m., Ashkenaz, 9:30 p.m., $10-$13

Berkeley World Music Festival with [illegible] belly dancers, [illegible], some of the San Francisco [illegible] Ensemble and more. Plus an after-hours party, Ashkenaz, 12:00 p.m., free

[illegible] with [illegible] 9 p.m., $10

[illegible] Presents [illegible] [illegible] 8:15 p.m., free

[illegible] & The [illegible] Ensemble [illegible] 4:50 p.m., free

José-Luis Orozco Bilingual children's [illegible], Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 10:30 a.m., $8.50-$10.50

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] & [illegible] Country featuring The Earl Brothers with [illegible], and [illegible] 8:30 p.m., $13

[illegible] [illegible] & Blues, 8 & 10 p.m., $22

[illegible] [illegible] Saloon, 9-11 p.m., free

Larry Carlton [illegible] Room, 7 & 9:30 p.m., $48-58

[illegible] [illegible] folk music w/ [illegible] 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m., free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] w/ guests, Yoshi's San Francisco, 6-8 p.m., free

Hiromi: The Trio Project with Special Guests Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 p.m., $70-$20; 30 children's matinee on Sunday

Rock & Pop

Civil War Rust with 5 Days Dirty, [illegible], and [illegible] the Dog, Great American Music Hall, 9 p.m., $12

[illegible] The Official [illegible] Pre-Party with [illegible] System, The Vaccines, and Geographer. Multimedia

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SAT 6/4 8:30PM $10 AUDIAFAUNA (SANTA CRUZ) BLUE RABBIT [illegible]
SUN 6/5 3:00PM FREE LENNY GILL'S STUDENT SHOWCASE
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FRI 6/10 8:30PM $8 THE FLAKES [illegible]
SAT 6/11 8:30PM $10 [illegible]
SUN 6/12 2-8PM $10-15 A YOUTH PRODUCED BENEFIT FOR THE JAPANESE [illegible] RELIEF FUND
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THU June 2nd 9:30pm Gigante Thursday w/ Carne Cruda Cumbia Project + El Kool Kyle playing cumbia and old latin vinyl. $5
FRI June 3rd 9:00pm MJ's Brass Boppers New Orleans style second line brass band, ya heard.
SAT June 4th 9:15pm Conjunto Picante cd release. Salsa Live
SUN June 5th 8:00pm Sandy Perez y su Lade. Member of Los muñequitos de Matanzas
WED June 8th 9:00pm Agapi Mou (Playing the songs of Greece, Albania, Armenia, and Turkey $5
THU June 9th 9:30pm Gigante Thursday w/ Carne Cruda Cumbia Project + El Kool Kyle playing cumbia and old latin vinyl. $5
FRI June 10th 9:00pm Crystal Monee Hall $8
SAT June 11th 9:00pm damon and the heathens cd release
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C&C

8 p.m. $15-$20

Dale Earnhardt Jr. Jr. with [illegible] [illegible], 8:30 p.m. $10-$12

Happy Hour Snow with The Glimmers and The Ryans [illegible] 3 p.m. free

[illegible] [illegible] 5 p.m. $8

[illegible] with [illegible] Bottom of the Hill, 5 p.m. $10

Planet Booty with [illegible] Cafe du Nord, 9:30 p.m. $12

Punk Rock Sideshow [illegible] with [illegible] The Funeral Pyre and [illegible] 5:30 p.m. $8

[illegible] with Sea of Bees, [illegible] The Independent, 8 p.m. $13-$15

[illegible] with [illegible] 8:30 p.m. $4

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] [illegible] 5:55 p.m. $25

[illegible] [illegible] 8 p.m.

The Theater Players with [illegible] Red Devil Lounge 4 p.m. $10

Saturday Night Soul Party with [illegible] & [illegible] 10 p.m. $5

The [illegible] Brothers [illegible] 9:30 p.m. $12-$10

The Yang Wars Project with Karyn Paige

& The Soundmen, DJ Sean G, and DJ [illegible] & [illegible] Music Hall, 9:45 p.m., $8, $10

SUNDAY 5

EAST BAY

All Ages

Open Mic hosted by Lil' Guy Blue and Doc George. Long Haul. 7 p.m. free

Blues, Folk & Country

Hardcover Unplugged Jupiter, 8 p.m., free

First Sunday Acoustic: Margaret & [illegible] [illegible] The Bad Apples High Street Station, 3 p.m. $5-$15

[illegible] & Quartet with [illegible] Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. $20.50-$22.50

Jimmy's All-Star Super Brothers [illegible] band every Sunday. Peter's Restaurant, 8 p.m. free

[illegible] presents "Bubble" Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 2 p.m. $8-$10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] and R&B Night [illegible] Lounge, 6-10 p.m., free

[illegible] Jazz Quartet classic & contemporary jazz. Coffee Mill, 3-6 p.m., free

Joey DeFrancesco Trio Yoshi's, 2 & 7 p.m. $20-$8 for kids, $18 for adults at the Sunday matinee

[illegible] Cafe Van Kleef, 8 p.m.

Lynn Anderson: A Room of Our Own [illegible] Songs by [illegible] 4:30 p.m. $15

[illegible] Trio [illegible] 8:30 p.m. free

[illegible] Trio Rick's Lounge, 8:30 p.m. free

Rock & Pop

Live 105's BFD with Linkin Park, Snoop Dogg, The [illegible], Cage the Elephant, [illegible], Neon Trees, [illegible], Manchester Orchestra, Foster the People, [illegible], Middle Class Rut, The Limousines, Young the Giant, Awolnation, Wolfgang Gartner, [illegible] Audio, [illegible], Harvard Bass, RAC, The [illegible]

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[illegible] 341 14th St. Oakland 510-663-0271
Eagles Hall 2305 Alameda Ave., Alameda 510-785-0706
Easy Lounge 3255 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland 510-338-4011
[illegible] Art Bar and Lounge 55 Grand Ave Oakland 510-663-4430
[illegible] & [illegible] Barbeque 120 [illegible] Way Oakland 510-663-1350
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[illegible] 2150 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley 510-843-[illegible]
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Zellerbach Hall UC Berkeley, Berkeley 510-642-9988
Zio's Trattoria 552 [illegible] Ave. Hayward 510-[illegible]

Saint John, Party Ben, Jeffery Paradise, Kidnapp, Miles the DJ, Dan B, I Am Empire, Bonnie Guy, K-Play, Mom State, Foolish Ticket, The Relay Company, Young Digerati, Teen Rude Boyz, and the Local Band Contest Winner (to be announced). Shoreline Amphitheatre. 11 a.m. $45.00-$65.50

Red Vines with Seth Patterson & The Undertow. Rasputin Music & DVDs. 1 p.m. Free

You're Bar a Ferret Starkman with Wild Assumptions, Chur Hornaby, Bones M, My Parade and Agatha. 924 Gilman. 8 p.m.

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

California Roots Trio 30th Anniversary Tour Firehouse Arts Center. 1:30 p.m. $16-$27, $25

Sandy Vines y Su Lady [illegible] 1:00 p.m. free

Suhaila Salimpour's Belly Dance Nights featuring dancers from Suhaila Ballet and School of Dance. Club Montero's. 8 p.m. $12

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Harvey Mandel Biscuits & Blues. 8 & 10 p.m. $20

Bugs Harvey and Thunder Mess Blues jam. Shays Tavern. 8:30 p.m. free

Simon & Garfunkel Retrospective Performed by A.J. Swearingen & Jonathan Beedle Slim's. 6 p.m. $25, $25

Songwriter Sundays featuring artists perform in the lounge. Yoshi's San Francisco. 8 p.m.-midnight. $5

Yonry Ramirez Johnny Foley's Irish House. 9 p.m. free

Young Sunday with Coffee Brown Thee Parkside. 4 p.m. free

Classical & Opera

Bernard Adams on piano for Sunday champagne brunch. Top of the Mark. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. $59 for brunch plus gratuity and tax

Gospel & Vocal

Bonnie Woodson w/ Future Project [illegible]

ing Bands. $30 on Fifteen. 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. $29, includes brunch

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Gems of the Bay Sunday cabaret series. Society. 6 p.m. $27-$30. $85 dinner and show

Boom Fallon Jerome: Room For My Brown [illegible] Room, 3 p.m. $27

Mondo! Jazz Trio Project with Special Guests Yoshi's San Francisco. 5 & 7 p.m. $26-$36. $5 children's matinee on Sunday

Karl Vince Trio Chaya Brasserie. 6-9 p.m. free

Suzanne Smith Duo David Lockenback Brazz Bistro. 1 p.m. $30

Vince Lateano & Friends featuring Andrew Speight, Sam Grobe-Hendy & Mark [illegible]. Saloon Saloon. 4:30-8:30 p.m. $5

Rock & Pop

Sans.Cubi with Cushion Chaps. Cafe du Nord. 8 p.m. $12-$15

Lounge Act Books, Plan & Bloody Silver Roundball. Yoshi's San Francisco. 8 p.m. $7

Rumble & Evil with Mike Sorrentt (of Fruit & Summer), Bloody Cousins, and Mist Seal. Rickshaw Stop. 6 p.m. $18

Mourning (SOLD OUT) with Tupe Bork Mountain and Reality Reality. Hemlock Tavern. 8 p.m. $7

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Roma Arabic choral duo, instrumental ensemble. Palace of Fine Arts. 2 p.m.

MONDAY 6

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Kaoshoot Flight [illegible] special comedy guests. Ice Road Moonshine & Lounge. 8-11 p.m. $20

"Uptown Brown Nobble" live burlesque w/ Hubba Hubba Revue. The Uptown. 9 p.m. $10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Restaurant Room Restaurant Celebration Pro gin & Sausage Coffeehouse. 8 p.m. $10.50-$12.50

Bennet Francoise with Jim Room, Craig Tehom, and Gerald Cleaver. Yoshi's. 8 p.m. $16

SAN FRANCISCO

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Mondo! Mondays: John Thomas! Winner with The Mission Bonns Trio with Mel Martin, Matt Clark, and Howard Wiley. Yoshi's San Francisco. 8 p.m. $5

Open Mic Jazz Jam Boomdox, 8 p.m., free

Bonnie Mcnight Brize Room. 8 p.m. $20

Rock & Pop

Thee Oral Mondays: Father President with [illegible] Fellows and The Sandbanks. Elbo Room. 1 p.m. $6

Trakk Johnny Foley's Irish House. 9 p.m. free

David Lowery (of Cracker) Cafe du Nord. 8 p.m. $22-$28

Winter's Bone: The Complete Musical Score of the Motion Picture performed by the original composers. Great American Music Hall. 8 p.m., $18, $20

TUESDAY 7

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Country Thunder Rodeo Night w/ karaoke. Vanessa's Bar & Grill. 7:30-11 p.m. free

Jam Night w/ P.J. Brunot. Mojo Lounge. 8:30 p.m. free

Ronnie Healy Peter's Restaurant. 7:30-9 p.m. free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Idelle Rhomoene Duo w/ Ross Mondell. Cafe Rouge. 6:30 p.m. free

Jazzschool Tuesdays featuring Sammuo

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Dogpatch Saloon 2496 3rd St., 415-643-8592

The Eagle Tavern 398 12th St., 415-626-0880

Edinburgh Castle 950 Geary St., 415-885-4074

El Rincon 2700 16th St., 415-437-9240

El Rio 3158 Mission St., 415-282-3325

Elbo Room 647 Valencia St., 415-552-7788

[illegible] Lounge 1008 Geary St., 415-571-1342

The [illegible] 410 8th St., 415-848-0899

The Fillmore 1805 Geary Blvd., 415-346-6000

[illegible] 920 [illegible] St., 415-285-1040

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The Knockout 3223 Mission St., 415-550-6994

[illegible] Lounge [illegible] Mission St., 415-864-5585

Madrone Lounge 500 Divisadero St., 415-241-0202

Make-Out Room 3225 22nd St., 415-647-2888

Mezzanine 444 Jessie St., 415-625-8880

The Music Store 66 West Portal Ave.

Noe Valley Ministry 1021 Sanchez St.

415-454-5238

Park Chalet 1000 Great Highway, 415-386-8439

Peña Pachamama 1630 Powell St., 415-646-0018

Pier 23 The Embarcadero, 415-362-5125

Red Devil Lounge 1695 Polk St., 415-921-1695

The Regency Ballroom 1300 Van Ness Ave., TheRegencyBallroom.com

[illegible] Lounge [illegible] 20th St., 415-626-7386

Rickshaw Stop 155 Fell St., 415-861-2011

Rockit Room 406 Clement St., 415-387-6343

Rrazz Room 222 Mason St.

San Francisco Conservatory of Music 50 Oak St., 415-503-6275

Skip's Tavern 453 Cortland Ave., 415-282-9457

Skylark 3089 16th St., 415-621-9294

Slim's 333 11th St., 415-522-0333

Space 550 550 Barneveld Ave., 415-550-8286

Stud Bar 399 9th St., 415-863-6623

Sub/Mission Gallery 2183 Mission St., 415-255-7227

Supperclub 657 Harrison St., 415-348-0900

Swig Bar 561 Geary St., 415-931-7292

Temple 540 Howard St.

Thee Parkside 1600 17th St., 415-252-1330

Top of the Mark Mark Hopkins Hotel, 999 California St., 415-616-6916

Tunnel Top 601 Bush St., 415-986-8900

[illegible] Lounge 443 [illegible] St., 415-778-0278

[illegible] [illegible] St., 415-475-7277

[illegible] Restaurant and Lounge 2100 Sutter St., 415-563-5025

Yoshi's San Francisco 1330 Fillmore St., 415-655-5600

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ANARBOR · I THE MIGHTY
FRI. JUNE 3 · $21 ADV/$21 DOOR · DOORS 8, SHOW 9
ARCHITECTURE IN HELSINKI
HOORAY FOR EARTH
ALSO AT GAMH ON THURS. 6/2
SAT. JUNE 4 · $13 ADV/$13 DOOR · DOORS 8, SHOW 8:30
SHELBY ASH PRESENTS
"COWPOKES, GUNSLINGERS & OUTLAW COUNTRY" FEAT.
THE EARL BROTHERS
HANG JONES
TINY TELEVISION · POPS
SUN. JUNE 5 · $25 ADV/$25 DOOR · DOORS 5:30, SHOW 6
EARLY SHOW · AN EVENING WITH
SIMON & GARFUNKEL RETROSPECTIVE
PERFORMED BY A.J. SWEARINGEN & JONATHAN BEEDLE
TUES. JUNE 7 · $14 ADV/$14 DOOR · DOORS 7:30, SHOW 8
SARAH JAROSZ
THE CROOKED JADES · [illegible]
FRI. JUNE 10 · $35 ADV/$35 DOOR · DOORS 8, SHOW 9
KUSF IN EXILE PRESENTS
BUZZCOCKS · IMAGES
SAT. JUNE 11 · $15 ADV/$15 DOOR · DOORS 8, SHOW 9
EVOLFO DOOFEHT
ROCKY CRANE · [illegible] COLLECTIVE
WED. JUNE 15 · SLAPSTICK · SOLD OUT!
FRI. JUNE 17 · $26 ADV/$26 DOOR · DOORS 7:30, SHOW 8
THE TEXAS TORNADOS
RED MEAT
SAT. JUNE 18 · $18 ADV/$20 DOOR · DOORS 8, SHOW 9
...AND YOU WILL KNOW US BY THE TRAIL OF DEAD
RINGO DEATHSTARR · FOLLOW THAT BIRD

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THURS. JUNE 2 · $21 ADV/$21 DOOR · DOORS 8, SHOW 9
ARCHITECTURE IN HELSINKI
HOORAY FOR EARTH
ALSO AT SLIM'S ON FRI. 6/3
FRI. JUNE 3 · $26 ADV/$28 DOOR · DOORS 8, SHOW 9
BLACKFIELD
(STEVEN WILSON OF PORCUPINE TREE & AVIV GEFFEN)
JORDAN RUDESS (OF DREAM THEATER)
SAT. JUNE 4 · $15 ADV/$15 DOOR · DOORS 8, SHOW 9
CIVIL WAR RUST
5 DAYS DIRTY
TRIMACK · OUTLINE THE GOD
MON. JUNE 6 · $18 ADV/$20 DOOR · DOORS 7:30, SHOW 8
WINTER'S BONE:
THE COMPLETE MUSICAL SCORE OF THE MOTION PICTURE
PERFORMED BY THE ORIGINAL COMPOSERS
TUES. JUNE 7 · $20 ADV/$20 DOOR · DOORS 8, SHOW 9
GLASVEGAS · GLISS
FRI. JUNE 10 · $25 ADV/$25 DOOR · DOORS 8, SHOW 9
JACKSON BROWNE PRESENTS · AN EVENING WITH
CARLOS VARELA
SAT. & SUN. JUNE 11 & 12 · [illegible]
DOORS 8, [illegible]
BLACK LIPS
CEREBRAL BALLZY · PERSONAL & THE PIZZAS
TUES. JUNE 14 · $25 ADV/$25 DOOR
DOORS 7, SHOW 8 · SEATED SHOW
MARK LANEGAN
AN ACOUSTIC PERFORMANCE
SEAN WHEELER & ZANDER SCHLOSS
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THROUGH JUNE 25

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JUN 3 F 8:00
THE NEW STANDARD
STEVE TYRELL
Herbst Theatre
Jazz singer Steve Tyrell is among the world's foremost interpreters of standards, pop and soul, delivered with a rough hewn, vocal [illegible]

JUN 4 SA 8:00
REEDS AND BEATS
ROVA SAXOPHONE QUARTET WITH DJ OLIVE & DJ P-LOVE
Swedish American Hall
ROVA celebrates the [illegible] anniversary with grooves from two of the leading [illegible]

JUN 5 SU 7:00
SIX STRING THEORY
LEE RITENOUR & DAVE GRUSIN
Herbst Theatre
A master of straight-ahead jazz, funk and fusion, guitarist Lee Ritenour is joined by legendary keyboardist Dave Grusin.

JUN 10 F 8:00
CRESCENT CITY SOUNDS
A NIGHT IN TREME
Davies Symphony Hall
Artists from the HBO hit series will appear, including Rebirth Brass Band, Kermit Ruffins, Dr. Michael White, Donald Harrison and Big Sam's [illegible]

JUN 17 F 8:00
AFRICAN ALLIANCE
YOUSSOU N'DOUR ANGELIQUE KIDJO
Paramount Theatre Oakland
West Africa's profile on the international music scene can be traced to the two giants on this extraordinary double bill.

JUN 18 SA 8:00
NIKKANESE
NIKKI YANOFSKY
Herbst Theatre
At 17, Yanofsky is a rising star with the poise and chops of an artist twice her age. If you like Ella Fitzgerald, you'll love Nikki. And her last SFJAZZ show sold out!

JUN 19 SU 7:00
TRADITION IN TRANSITION
ROY HARGROVE & CEDAR WALTON
Herbst Theatre
The greatest trumpet player of his generation joins forces with a true jazz titan, pianist Cedar Walton. They meet in the most intimate jazz setting, as a duo

JUN 19 SU 8:00
BIG, BOLD & BEAUTIFUL
JALC ORCHESTRA WITH WYNTON MARSALIS
Davies Symphony Hall
Arguably the most famous jazz musician alive, trumpeter Wynton Marsalis is an iconic figure who has led the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra since 1986

JUN 25 SA 8:00
PRINCESS OF PORTUGAL
ANA MOURA
Herbst Theatre
The brightest young star of the Portuguese fado song style is Ana Moura. Her luxurious voice and passionate stage presence have made fans of Prince, the Rolling Stones and many more

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with
STRUNG OUT
and THE DARLINGS
JUNE 22

THE GLITCH MOB
JUNE 24

TIPPER SOUND EXPERIENCE
JULY 8

REEL BIG FISH
STREETLIGHT MANIFESTO
JULY 15

SEUN KUTI & EGYPT 80
JULY 16

SCREAM IT LIKE YOU MEAN IT TOUR
BREATHE CAROLINA
CHIODOS
I SEE STARS - THE COLOR MORALE
TEK-ONE - THE AIR I BREATHE
JULY 18

ZOÉ
JULY 21

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DEFTONES
THE DILLINGER ESCAPE PLAN
LE BUTCHERETTES
JUNE 13

Panic! at the Disco
JUNE 22

YELLOW MAGIC ORCHESTRA
FEATURING HARUOMI HOSONO, RYUICHI SAKAMOTO & YUKIHIRO TAKAHASHI
FIRST SHOW IN MORE THAN 30 YEARS!
JUNE 27

BLOODY BEETROOTS
with DESTRUCTO
JUNE 28

Dropkick Murphys
with CHUCK RAGAN
JUNE 29

GILLIAN WELCH
JULY 7

OWL CITY
MATT KEARNEY · UNWED SAILOR

BEN FOLDS
KENTON CHEN
JULY 22

BUD LIGHT
ticketmaster

C C

...om the Berkeley music theme Jupiter. 8 p.m. free

Marabuda, Fisher, & Gabriel Mo's Lounge. 8-10 p.m. free

Mundo Nuevo and Band Geo Flie Yoshi's. 5 p.m. $14

Rock & Pop

Dreampoll with All Will Suffer. Stork Club. 9 p.m. $8

Kimberli's Show: Geo Rekston featuring guests from Rogue Wave, Green City Rockers, Persephone's Bees, Bright Eyes, & more. The Layover. 10 p.m. free

U2 with Lenny Kravitz Oracle Arena. 7 p.m. $30-$250

Youth of Today featuring Mouthpiece, All Teeth, and Last Asleep. Oakland Metro Opera House. 7:30 p.m. $14

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

The Hard Hands spoken word event with Bradley and Bo. Dorsey's Locker. 7 p.m. free

SAN FRANCISCO

All Ages

Stompy Blues Verdi Club. 6:30 p.m. $10

Blues, Folk & Country

Gold Whale Amnesia. 7 p.m.

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Lounge: Matinee Tryone Yoshi's San Francisco. 3 p.m. $10

Marty Eggers Rite Spot. 8:30 p.m. free

Ricardo Scales playing soft jazz blend. Top of the Mark. 8:30-11:30 p.m. $5-$10

Shona McNight Rasa Room. 5 p.m. $30

Tuesday Night Jump! Stompy Jones plays with pal, plus a swing dance. Mondo Verdi Club. 9 p.m. $10-$12

Rock & Pop

Agnes Obel with Jhameel and Ivan Ely Snow. Rickshaw Stop. 8 p.m. $12

Cruiser Coltrane with Eleanor Murray and Ben Henderson. Hillsworth Tavern. 8 p.m. $6

Otojo's Umbrella Park Chalet Brewery. 6:30 p.m. free

Dirty Ondrilius with Paper Bags, Rosemonts, and DJ Tygudeos. The Knockout. 9:30 p.m. $5

Gloveggas with Gilon, Great American Music Hall. 8 p.m. $20

Orange Goblin with The Gates of Slumber. Haunt with DJ Rob Metal. Bottom of the Hill. 9 p.m. $12-$14

Sarah Dixon with The Crooked Jades and Megan Keely. Slim's. 8 p.m. $14

Storm with Teddy Bellevoit. Cafe du Nord. 9:30 p.m. $15

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Electro-Funk Night with DJ Effective and friends. Boom Boom Room. 9:37 p.m. free

Jazz Mafia Presents a Tribute Birthday Throw-Down with live performances and surprise guests. Bott & Mondo Music Hall. 8? p.m. $5?

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Alexarte Future Yoshi's San Francisco. 8 p.m. $16-$18

Benefit for Copacabo Youth: San Francisco With the Stan and Monda Elbo Room. 9 p.m. $5

Blown Soulcrown Mezzanine. 8 p.m. $17

WEDNESDAY 8

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Bouldet Bouelit Rebaique Mayer and Tim Hutchinson Mama Buzz Cafe. 7 p.m. donations accepted

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Will Bernard piano music. Campo di Bocce. 6-9 p.m. free

Rock & Pop

Pinata Protest Radio Presents: Big Thiel This week: Phaxen Self, Caldecott, and special guests. The Uptown. 9 p.m. free

The Thornstones with New and Bennie Mothe. Stork Club. 9 p.m. $8

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Agapi Mou music of Greece, Albania, Armenia, and Turkey. Black Rolands. 8 p.m. $5

Caribbean Night with Reggae Mesh and DJ Mandon. Dorsey's Locker. 7:15 p.m. free

Sugar Brazelia Yoshi's. 8 p.m. $20

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Bouldet Bouldet Biscuits & Blues. 8 & 10 p.m. $15

Dirty Dozen with The Astral Force and Kelly McFarling. Doo Boudet. 5 p.m. $8

Terry Hutchinson Johnny Foley's Irish House. 9 p.m. free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Geo Rekston and the Mondo Mundo Top of the Mark. 7:30-11:30 p.m. $10

Whiskhouse w/ Claudia & Bennett. Abranore. Amnesia. 7 p.m.

Bopsetti w/ the Mitch Marcus Sextet. Amnesia. 9 p.m. free

Pia Vinson Rasa Room. June 8-9. 8 p.m. $40-$45

Rock & Pop

Friendly Fires with Wild Blood. The Independent. 8 p.m. $20 (sold out)

Locust with ... and DJ Rob. Rickshaw Stop. 8 p.m. $12/$14

Makkroo with Wildlife, Islands of the Hill. 9:30 p.m. $16-$18

My First Earthquake with Le Vele and DJ Domains Lid. Cafe du Nord. 9:30 p.m. $10, $12

Neil Innes of Monty Python with The Rubles Noise. Red Devil Lounge. 9 p.m. $20

Rough Stones with Blues Boogie. Hemlock Tavern. 9 p.m. $8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Hooligans in Wonderland: Blown Mars and Mondo Mundo with Mayer Hawthorne & the County. Bill Graham Civic Auditorium. 7:30 p.m. $37.50

Rockstarn Rockstars Booty party with Billy Magic Pleasuremaker, Nanotel "Get Down Weird Motor," and Kevin "The Whore" Yeong. Bissap Baobab. 9:30 p.m. $5

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Freddy Boudet and le Boudet Latin, Brazilian, Mediterranean & contemporary folk. Pena Pachamama. 8 p.m. $12

The Legendary Skatalites with Jah Tree (Jah Wurrior Mundo) Lupen Stone Rock. Yoshi's San Francisco. 8 p.m. $22

Submissions for music listings should be e-mailed to Clubs@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Clubs Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

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WED 6/1 **CHARLES WHEAL BAND**
8:30 Charles Wheal & his band play some of the highest quality traditional jazz influenced blues and roots music on the scene today
charleswheal.com

THUR 6/2 **SELECTOR, DJ TOPH ONE**
8:30 Whether contributing to XLR8R Mag, or running his long-time Red Wine parties throughout SF, Toph One has been a top flight DJ for years.
facebook.com/tophone

FRI 6/3 **OGGI BEAT**
8:30 Oggi pronounced [OH'-gee] means "today" in Italian. Oggi Beat is the groove of the day, grooving in the moment. The band is the creation of Tim Ronan and Greg Galbreath
reverbnation.com/oggibeat

KAT 010
5:30-7:00 On the patio, the one and only Kat 010 will hold it down every Friday from 5-7 with her unique blend of keyboard groove dopeness.
Kat010.com

SAT 6/4 **MICHAEL COLEMAN QUARTET**
8:30 Pianist Michael Coleman, leader of the Oakland-based jazz ensemble Beep Trio, brings in his new quartet.
michaelcolemanmusic.com

SUN 6/5 **AMERICANA UNPLUGGED: RAY BIERL TRIO**
5:00 Singer, guitarist, fiddler Ray Bierl and company join us for the first time this year.
raybierl.com

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Zimbabwean House Music
Russian Folk Music
Festival AfterParty
West African Highlife
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EAST BAY EXPRESS

DJ & DANCE

THURSDAY 2

EAST BAY

Academy Night w/ DJ Jon M Joe D. spinning hip-hop, R&B, dancehall, & Top 40. White Horse Inn, 9 p.m., $3. Houston free w/ valid ID.
Band Fever w/ Sosure Born Sound spinning reggae & dancehall, Shashamane Yoruba arc, 10 p.m., free
Bonus Beat w/ DJs Kool Kado & Chris Fax, Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m., free
Valentine Thursdays Radio, 10 p.m., free
DJ Addi spinning eclectic ear candy, Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free
DJ Jerry Ross spinning soul, funk, hip-hop, R&B, & more, Easy Lounge, 10 p.m., free
DJ Trick spinning lounge, Lost Weekend Lounge, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., free
Boogie/Boogie with DJs Poizen, Kool Kyle, and Uncle Joe, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free
Voodoo Valentine w/ Deathfix spinning rock, electro, new wave, & more, The Layover, 9:30 p.m., free
Tasty [illegible] night w/ DJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop & R&B, Club 21, 9 p.m., $12-$15
Temple of Boom w/ DJ Fluid Cut spinning hip-hop, R&B, The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m., free
Thy One Hot Beat featuring DJ Tanus spinning 11s & 20s hits, [illegible] dance, 9 p.m., free
Yoruba Dance Sessions featuring DJs Carlos Alema [illegible] Cesit, Bench and Bar, 9 p.m., free

FRIDAY 3

EAST BAY

Iron Jah w/ DJs Eddy Kado and his Friends spinning [illegible], The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m., free
Kaos w/ DJs spinning Latin music, Club 21, 9 p.m., $6-$15
Ignite w/ DJ Ryan DJ Ryan spinning the hottest music in the Bay Area, White Horse Inn, 9 p.m., $5
DJ Mithi's [illegible] **Golden** The Layover, 10 p.m., free
Friday Nite Jams w/ DJ Ryan & Fenix, 11 p.m., $5
Happy Hours w/ DJ Golden Gram spinning punk, rock, indie, & noise rock, The Missouri Lounge, 6-10 p.m., free
Latin Explosion DJ Jorge Enlipse spins rumba, salsa, merengue, cumbia, Spanish pop, & house, Bench and Bar, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., $6-$15
Voodoo weekly Houston DJ series, Houston Music, 8-10 p.m., free
Old School hip-hop, funk, Radio, 9 p.m., free
Oldies Night with DJ Vinnie spinning reggae, salsa, R&B, Room Paradise Club, 10 p.m., ladies free before 11:30 p.m.
Optimistic DJ Joe Quinn spins funk, Latin, & dub, Easy Lounge, 10 p.m., free
Retro-Actives [illegible] Band 80s pop night, Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free
Sultry Fridays DJ Lash & Fat Rob spin R&B & soul, Kimball's Carnival, 9 p.m., $5
Tootify w/ DJ Jamie Poyner spinning northern soul, Motown, '60s, disco, punk, new wave, & rock 'n' roll, Ruby Room, 10 p.m., free
Vybz Int'l w/ DJs [illegible], Lorenzo, & [illegible] spinning roots, reggae, dancehall, & soul, Shashamane Restaurant, 10 p.m., $5
Zouk/Bossa Fridays featuring DJ Quinn spinning afrobeat, soca, samba, salsa, merengue, dancehall reggae, bhangra, Arabic music, & more, Conga Lounge, 10 p.m.

SATURDAY 4

EAST BAY

All Productions & [illegible] DJs spinning 80s & hip-hop, Fluid, 10 p.m., free
East Meets [illegible] w/ DJs Jerry Ross & Soul [illegible] spin R&B, soul, funk, reggae, & hip-hop, Kimball's Lounge, 9 p.m., $10
East Mission w/ DJs Fern, Chris, Sage T., & guests spinning hip-hop & R&B, Bonus Beer Bar, 9 p.m., $6-$12
In Flight DJs spinning [illegible] pop, mind-blowing rock, & vegan hip-hop, [illegible] Restaurant, 9:30 p.m., free
Downtempo [illegible] **Lounge** w/ rotating DJs, Sushi Groove, 11-10:30 p.m., free
Superstar Saturday Night w/ DJ [illegible], White Horse Inn, 9 p.m., $5
Ozone Saturdays Club 1220, 9 p.m., $6
La Soul Loca Latino [illegible] night w/ DJs spinning salsa, norteño, & cumbia, plus hot go-go sequences, Club 21, 9 p.m., $6-$15
Guests With [illegible] DJ [illegible] & guests host [illegible], Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free
Mac Kane & [illegible] DJs Mac Kane and Farmer's Market [illegible] 2:00 a.m., Easy Lounge, 10 p.m., free
Pop History 101 DJs spin pop from the Stooges to [illegible], Ruby Room, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free
Reggae Night Conga Lounge, 10 p.m., free
Shappen Saturdays DJ [illegible] & guests spin soul, hip-hop, R&B, salsa, reggaeton & more, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., $10
Spinning Science w/ DJ [illegible], Houston Down Low, 9 p.m., $10
The Stronghold Sound featuring DJ Bret, The Layover, 10 p.m., free
Warm-Up w/ DJ Fluid Cut spinning hip-hop, R&B, The Missouri Lounge, 8:30 p.m., free

SUNDAY 5

EAST BAY

Beats by Designer disco, funk, & more, Easy Lounge, 9 p.m., free
Ocean Hostess spinning rock on vinyl, Bar 355, 10 p.m., free
DJ Roody Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free
King of Kings DJ Selecta [illegible] and guests spin reggae, Valentine spins [illegible] lovers' rock, Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m., $12, ladies/students free before 11 p.m.
Lay It Down Sundays featuring DJ Dre, Tweed, The Layover, 2 p.m., free
Major w/ DJ Mperial spinning soul, funk, & [illegible] old school, Sumer Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m., free
Post-Antique Fair [illegible] **Lounge** spinning [illegible] rock, roll [illegible], Parkside Island, 3 p.m., free
The Soul-Full Glow DJ Aabl [illegible] & guests spin soulful grooves, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free
Uncle Fox's Ska Sundays DJs spin ska, rocksteady, & early reggae, The Noisy Toby Club, 7 p.m., free

MONDAY 6

EAST BAY

DJ Ange spinning dub, ska, & soul, Easy Lounge, 9 p.m., free
Fix [illegible] **Night** featuring DJs spinning rock and [illegible], The Layover, 9:30 p.m., free
Monday Band featuring DJs [illegible], The New Parish, 10 p.m., $5
Underground Lounge [illegible] '00s & [illegible], 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free
Vinyl [illegible] DJ [illegible] spinning [illegible], The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m., free

TUESDAY 7

EAST BAY

DJ Jon Gobs spinning salsa & Latin funk, Easy Lounge, 9 p.m., free

PICK

So Fresh! The Freshest Old Skool Hip-Hop Party

Now roughly three decades old, hip-hop has increasingly become a nostalgia-based medium. It's built on endlessly recycled samples, fixated on its own history, and prone to regurgitate old trends (like shell-toed Adidas, which never quite went out of style). Plus, its audience is growing up. Hip-hop used to be the youthful outlaw genre — now it's full of old codgers who think that great music ended with *Enter the Wu-Tang*. Thus, there's a burgeoning market for DJ events that celebrate the so-called "old skool" (apparently one generation removed from the "old school"). One of the best is **So Fresh!**, a twice-monthly party helmed by DJs **Twin Spin** (who mixes video live) and **Tactics**. The duo's next event, happening Saturday, June 4, will feature classics by such artists as **LL Cool J**, Pete Rock & CL Smooth, SWV, Eric B & Rakim, The Fugees, Brand Nubian, Del Tha Funkee Homosapien, and New Edition, among others. Leave your wireless communication devices at home and come party like it's 1990. At **Risque Lounge** (45 Maiden Ln., San Francisco), 10 p.m., free before 10:30 p.m., $5 thereafter. SocialitePro.com *— Rachel Swan*

DJ Wooly spinning jams, Lost Weekend Lounge, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., free
Escape College night featuring DJ Sampo & [illegible], Club 21, 9 p.m., $10
Joe Quinn Spins Vinyl Easy Lounge, 9 p.m., free
Stay Punk! w/ DJ [illegible] spinning punk, hardcore, & metal, The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m., free
Vintage featuring DJ Tayh Old & weekly guests spinning deep cuts from the '60s through tomorrow, Mosswood East, 7 p.m., free

WEDNESDAY 8

EAST BAY

90s Night with Mr. [illegible] Mr. [illegible] spins songs from the '90s, plus [illegible] by Cary, Easy Lounge, 9 p.m., free
Hump Day w/ DJs [illegible] of African, The [illegible] Lounge, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free
The Jet Set with DJ Santero and special guests, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free
The Jump Off: Hump Day Hip-Hop w/ DJs spinning hip-hop, Club 21, 9 p.m., $6-$15
Words Of [illegible] poetic [illegible] Houston [illegible] music, Air Bar & Lounge, 8:30 p.m.
Porcupine Latin [illegible] night w/ [illegible], Bench and Bar, 9 p.m., $6-$10
Ooze Punk, indie, new wave, & [illegible] rock w/ DJ [illegible] Pretty Money, Ruby Room, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free
Slippery Wet Wednesdays poetry, open-mic, and live DJ Foxes, 10 p.m., free

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SUN 9PM THE SOUL FULL GLOW
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MON 9PM THREE DAY WEEKEND
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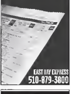

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Trustee Sale No. 742460CA Loan No. 3057921434 Title Order No. 100023633-CA-MAI NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 7/6/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 6/8/2011 at 12:00 PM CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded 07/17/2007, Book , Page , Instrument 2007251340, of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California, executed by: Nena Mongiello, an unmarried woman, as Trustor, Washington Mutual Bank, FA, as Beneficiary, will sell at public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Sale will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to the Deed of Trust. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Place of Sale: At the Fallon St emergency exit to the Alameda County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon St, Oakland, CA Legal Description: As more fully described in said Deed of Trust Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: $487,002.30 (estimated) Street address and other common designation of the real property: 1007 41st Street #325 Emeryville, CA 94608 APN Number: 049-1022-053 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". In compliance with California Civil Code 2923.5(c) the mortgagee, trustee, beneficiary, or authorized agent declares that it has contacted the borrower(s) to assess their financial situation and to explore options to avoid foreclosure; or that it has made efforts to contact the borrower(s) to assess their financial situation and to explore options to avoid foreclosure by one of the following methods: by telephone; by United States mail; either 1st class or certified; by overnight delivery; by personal delivery; by e-mail; by face to face meeting. Date: 5/12/2011 California Reconveyance Company, as Trustee Colette Suarez, Assistant Secretary CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. California Reconveyance Company 9200 Oakdale Avenue Mail Stop: CA2-4379 Chatsworth, CA 91311 800-892-6902 For Sales Information: (714) 730-2727 or www.lpsasap.com (714) 573-1965 or www.priorityposting.com P834463 5/18, 5/25, 06/01/2011

Trustee Sale No. 446205CA Loan No. 3012079926 Title Order No. 532199 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 2/26/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 6/15/2011 at 12:00 PM CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded 03/19/2007, Book , Page , Instrument 2007109679 of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California, executed by: Richard Gene Scott and Susan Matthews Scott, husband and wife, as Trustor, Washington Mutual Bank, FA, as Beneficiary, will sell at public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Sale will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to the Deed of Trust. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Place of Sale: At the Fallon St emergency exit to the Alameda County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon St, Oakland, CA Legal Description: As more fully described in said Deed of Trust Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: $445,960.99 (estimated) Street address and other common designation of the real property: 1007 41st St Unit 424 Emeryville, CA 94608 APN Number: 049-1022-064-00 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". In compliance with California Civil Code 2923.5(c) the mortgagee, trustee, beneficiary, or authorized agent declares that it has contacted the borrower(s) to assess their financial situation and to explore options to avoid foreclosure; or that it has made efforts to contact the borrower(s) to assess their financial situation and to explore options to avoid foreclosure by one of the following methods: by telephone; by United States mail; either 1st class or certified; by overnight delivery; by personal delivery; by e-mail; by face to face meeting. Date: 5/13/2011 California Reconveyance Company, as Trustee Colette Nunez, Assistant Secretary CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. California Reconveyance Company 9200 Oakdale Avenue Mail Stop: CA2-4379 Chatsworth, CA 91311 800-892-6902 For Sales Information: (714) 730-2727 or www.lpsasap.com (714) 573-1965 or www.priorityposting.com P836209 5/25, 6/1, 06/08/2011

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. 09-0161827 Title Order No. 09-8-254551 Investor/Insurer No. 1157930 APN No. 049-1529-596 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED [illegible]/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. Notice is hereby given that RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A., as duly appointed trustee pursuant to the Deed of Trust executed by CAROLE FANNING, A SINGLE WOMAN, dated [illegible]/2006 and recorded [illegible]/2006, as Instrument No. [illegible], in Book , Page , of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Alameda County, State of California, will sell on 06/08/2011 at 12:30PM, At the Fallon Street entrance to the County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612 at public auction, to the highest bidder for cash or check as described below, payable in full at time of sale, all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust, in the property situated in said County and State and as more fully described in the above referenced Deed of Trust. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 4 ANCHOR DRIVE #436, EMERYVILLE, CA, 94608. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The total amount of the unpaid balance with interest thereon of the obligation secured by the property to be sold plus reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is $360,[illegible].32. It is possible that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness due. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept cashier's checks drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Said sale will be made, in an "AS IS" condition, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust, advances thereunder, with interest as provided, and the unpaid principal of the Note secured by said Deed of Trust with interest thereon as provided in said Note, plus fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. DATED: [illegible] RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. 1800 Tapo Canyon Rd., CA6-914-01-94 SIMI VALLEY, CA 93063 Phone: (800) 281 8219, Sale Information (626) 927-4399 By: Trustee's Sale Officer RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. ASAP# 3991275 05/18/2011, 05/25/2011, 06/01/2011

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE T.S. No. WC-248248-C Loan No. 0044098515 Insurer No. 0044098515 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 09/26/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by the duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to satisfy the obligation secured by said Deed of Trust. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. TRUSTOR: TERRY LINDSEY, AN UNMARRIED MAN Recorded 10/02/2006 as Instrument No. 2006370089 in Book , page of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California, Date of Sale: 06/15/2011 at 12:30 P.M. Place of Sale: At the Fallon Street entrance to the County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612 Property Address is purported to be: 6363 CHRISTIE AVE EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 APN#: 049-1531-108 The total amount secured by said instrument as of the time of initial publication of this notice is $385,[illegible], which includes the total amount of the unpaid balance (including accrued and unpaid interest) and reasonable estimated costs, expenses, and advances at the time of initial publication of this notice. Pursuant to California Civil Code 2923.54 the undersigned, on behalf of the beneficiary, loan servicer or authorized agent, declares as follows: [1] The mortgage loan servicer has obtained from the commissioner a final or temporary order of exemption pursuant to Section 2923.53 that is current and valid on the date the notice of sale is filed; [2] The timeframe for giving notice of sale specified in subdivision (a) of Section 2923.52 does not apply pursuant to Section 2923.52 or 2923.55. Date: 05/19/2011 EXECUTIVE TRUSTEE SERVICES, INC. 2255 North Ontario Street, Suite 400 Burbank, CA 91504-3120 Sale Line: 714-730-2727 Joanna Peterson, TRUSTEE SALE OFFICER ASAP# 4002630 05/25/2011, 06/01/2011, 06/08/2011

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS #: CA-[illegible]-304012-BL Order #: 100870325-CA-GTI YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 2/28/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 to the Financial code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. BENEFICIARY MAY ELECT TO BID LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE. Trustor(s): LORENA NAJARRO, AN UNMARRIED WOMAN, AND OSCAR NAJARRO, AN UNMARRIED MAN, AS JOINT TENANTS Recorded: 3/10/2006 as Instrument No. 2006089981 in book xxx, page xxx of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of ALAMEDA County, California; Date of Sale: 6/27/2011 at 12:30 PM Place of Sale: At the Fallon Street entrance to the County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612 Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: $343,563.73 The purported property address is: 4 ANCHOR DR # F433 EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 Assessor's Parcel No. 049-1529-593-00 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. If no street address or other common designation is shown, please refer to the referenced legal description for property location. In the event no common address or common designation of the property is provided herein directions to the location of the property may be obtained within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale by sending a written request to Bank of America 475 Crosspoint Parkway Getzville NY 14068 Pursuant to California Civil Code 2923.54 the undersigned, on behalf of the beneficiary, loan servicer or authorized agent, declares as follows: [1] The mortgage loan servicer has obtained from the commissioner a final or temporary order of exemption pursuant to Section 2923.53 that is current and valid on the date the notice of sale is filed; [2] The timeframe for giving notice of sale specified in subdivision (a) of Section 2923.52 does not apply pursuant to Section 2923.52 . If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's Attorney. Date: Quality Loan Service Corp. 2141 5th Avenue San Diego, CA 92101 619-645-7711 For NON SALE information only Sale Line: 714-730-2727 or Login to: www.fidelityasap.com Reinstatement Line: 619-645-7711 Quality Loan Service, Corp. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holders right's against the real property only. THIS NOTICE IS SENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF COLLECTING A DEBT. THIS FIRM IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT ON BEHALF OF THE HOLDER AND OWNER OF THE NOTE. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED BY OR PROVIDED TO THIS FIRM OR THE CREDITOR WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. As required by law, you are hereby notified that a negative credit report reflecting on your credit record may be submitted to a credit report agency if you fail to fulfill the terms of your credit obligations. ASAP# 4006178 06/01/2011, 06/08/2011, 06/15/2011

SAVAGE LOVE

DEFENDING NONMONOGAMY

But not defending Schwarzenegger's screw-up.

By Dan Savage

My husband and I recently realized that in order for us to remain happily married, we need to fuck other people.

Enter the boyfriend. This twenty-year-old hunk has opened the sexual floodgates! He's gorgeous and athletic and enthusiastic, he gets me off at least twice every time we get together, and tales of our exploits have made things even hotter between my husband and me. Everybody's happy!

So what's the problem? Well, after two months of dating and numerous sexual encounters, my new lover has yet to get an erection. I know he's been able to get it up with previous partners, so I suspect this has something to do with our situation. Maybe there's a subconscious part of his brain that doesn't want to bone a married woman? I've made it clear to him that there is no pressure and that I am more than satisfied. He insists that he is very attracted to me and that our current activities (lots of oral and hands everywhere) are incredibly satisfying.

Am I missing something, Dan? How can I coax this young man's erection out of hiding?

Nouveau Mrs. Robinson

Before I get to your question, NMR, I need to address the recent **Arnold Schwarzenegger** unpleasantness.

I'm getting a lot of mail from people insisting that it's all my fault. I'm apparently to blame for everything because (1) I'm a big proponent of nonmonogamous/monogamish relationships and (2) aging Hollywood action stars don't get erections without checking in with me first. And look where the nonmonogamy stuff I'm always pushing got Arnold! Look at the chaos that nonmonogamy created! Failed marriages! Devastated children! Scandalous scandals!

In my defense, ladies and gentlemen of the angry e-mob, I would point out that Arnold wasn't in a nonmonogamous relationship. He was in a monogamous relationship and he failed at monogamy. He did not succeed at nonmonogamy. If there's a lesson to be drawn from this, it's not that honest nonmonogamy never works. Rather, it is the critical importance — particularly during adulterous heterosexual encounters — of anal intercourse.

And please bear in mind, e-mobsters, that you rarely hear about honest nonmonogamous relationships that work, to say nothing of marriages like Mr. and Mrs. NMR's, i.e., marriages that were saved by nonmonogamy. We tend to learn that someone we know is in a nonmonogamous relationship when it implodes and people — both inside and outside the relationship — cast around, looking for something or someone to blame. If the couple was nonmonogamous, nonmonogamy gets the blame, even if it had nothing to do with the breakup.

On to your problem, NMR.

What a delightful problem to have! A gorgeous, athletic, and enthusiastic hunk with a hard dick is better than a gorgeous, athletic, and enthusiastic hunk with a soft dick, I'll grant you. But better a gorgeous, athletic, enthusiastic hunk with a soft dick than no gorgeous, athletic, and enthusiastic hunk at all, amirite?

And while I can't tell you exactly what's wrong with your hunk's dick — it could very well be the infamous hypothalamus (that would be the part of the brain that doesn't want to bone a married woman; most men don't have one) — I can tell you that you're doing everything right. You're not pressuring him, you're taking pleasure in him regardless, and you're not neglecting your husband. And if your hunk was getting it up for his previous partners, it's only a matter of time before he's getting it up for you.

But was he getting it up for his previous partners? Unless you've seen some video — and that's video we'd all like to see — all we have to go on is his word, NMR, and he could be lying. Young hunks with erectile problems, too embarrassed and/or ashamed to admit they have a problem, will sometimes lie to their partners and refuse to speak to doctors. But your hunk has someone older and wiser telling him what to do, NMR, and you're going to tell him to talk with a doctor.

Is it better to stay with your overweight wife — who happens to be the mother of your infant daughter — and cheat on her to get sexual gratification (and be a shit of a husband) or leave her (and be a shit of a father)?

Almost Twice The Wife

Cheating shit or leaving shit — are those your only options?

If they are, ATTW, then stay and cheat. Abandoning an infant — to say nothing of abandoning someone with an infant — is a shit move. So is cheating on the mother of your infant daughter, of course, but it's slightly less shitty.

Here's another option: You could go without for six months or a year — you know, like most new parents.

Take a little responsibility here, ATTW. You knocked the wife up knowing that pregnancy and its tragic aftermath, aka "parenting," leave new moms with very little time for the gym. If you expected your wife to bounce back to her pre-baby weight in ten weeks, like some sort of celebrity mom, then you needed to get her two nannies, a personal trainer, and a full-time nutritionist.

Perhaps I'm being too hard on you, ATTW. Your letter — reproduced here in its entirety — is all I had to go on. For all I know your wife is one of those lousy spouses who abandon routine physical maintenance once the first kid arrives, because hey, now you're stuck! Forgoing routine physical maintenance is the mother of all take-you-for-granted moves, one that quickly kills desire and slowly smothers love, and it can constitute grounds for cheating and/or leaving. (Normal and natural aging, health issues that make routine maintenance impossible, etc. do not by themselves constitute grounds for cheating and/or leaving.) But it's too soon to know if your wife is one of those lousy take-you-for-granted spouses, ATTW, as your daughter is still an infant.

Masturbate, help out, make sure your wife has the free time she needs to take care of herself, and you may find that you don't have to be any sort of shit. ●

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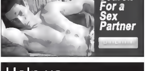
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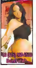
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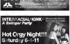
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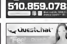
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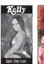
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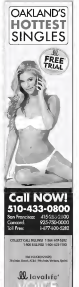
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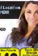

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